

Aldo Mondino's "Tappeti Stesi" at Robilant + Voena, St. Moritz

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"Tappeti stesi," by Aldo Mondino, Oil on eraclit, 250 x 151 cm, Robilant + Voena, St Moritz
(Courtesy: Robilant + Voena)

Robilant+Voena, St. Moritz, is showing a solo exhibition by [Aldo Mondino](#) (1938 - 2005). The exhibition runs through March 30, 2019, and focuses on his "Tappeti Stesi" (Carpets) from the 1990s and early 2000s, a period in

which Mondino began to concentrate his artistic practice on the theme of travel and derived inspiration from Morocco, Turkey, India and the East in general.

His paintings are characterized by bright and vibrant colors, drawing upon Middle Eastern traditions. The “Tappeti stesi” depict overlapping wall compositions in lively colors on Eraclit — an industrial material used for construction — and belong to Mondino’s Orientalist period, which critics consider the finest phase of his career.

“I was strolling — Mondino narrates — in the souk of Tangier, the small one, the one they call Soko Chico, in Spanish, when my myopic eyes lit upon a faded carpet in the middle of the alley. It even had fringes. I approached it, and naturally it was not a rug, but a piece of material, probably for construction. I picked it up and carried it to El Minzah Hotel, where I was staying. I couldn’t wait to paint the thing: to paint a carpet on it, of course,” Mondino said in an interview with Claudia Casali.

“I bought six of the oil colors they sell at the bazaar and began the first of a long series of works based on Oriental carpets. The material is a chipboard used for soundproofing. It resists flame so it is still often used in public venues. It is called Eraclit, or sandwich board, and it was invented during Fascism under the name Populit. The pattern of the chips, once painted, creates a trompe l’oeil effect that has even impressed famous rug merchants like Halevim and Eskenazi, who became collectors of those works. To all this, we should add the blessings of Delacroix, with his famous phrase: ‘I have never seen a painting as beautiful as a Persian carpet!’,” Mondino added.

[Aldo Mondino](#) was born in Turin in 1938, where he died in 2005. In 1959, he moved to Paris where he followed the courses held by Hayter at Atelier 17 and the Ecole du Louvre, as well as the mosaic course at the French Academy with Severini and his assistant, Licata. Thanks to Tancredi, he was able to display his work in a gallery for the first time, at Galerie Bellechasse, in 1960, showing pictures with a Surrealist feel.

The exhibition runs through March 30, 2019, at Robilant + Voena, Via Serlas 35, CH-7500 St Moritz, Switzerland.

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Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.