

Where the years do not turn the pages

Il Salviatino, Florence

Juin - Octobre 2021

Il Salviatino has the pleasure of hosting for the first time a young artist of the international contemporary scene, Audrey Guttman, with the exhibition entitled « Where the years do not turn the pages ». The Belgian artist presents works inspired by the role and timeless position of *Il Salviatino* over Florence, in which the gaze of the hotel and that of the artist merge and intertwine to reinterpret the symbols and clichés of the Florentine capital.

The artist gives us access to a new space-time, free of the usual constraints of “present, past, future” and “here and there”, leading us to envision another possible interpretation, suspended and dreamlike: where the years do not turn the pages. This title lends the project its name, not only by referencing the artist’s daily ritual of turning pages to select the images that emerge, but also re-interpreting the Florentine symbols and clichés while referencing the verse of Poliziano describing the kingdom of Venus in his famous *Stanze*.

Here the artist plays simultaneously with the collective imagination of the female universe and that of the city, bringing to life a new kingdom for the much-depicted Florentine Venus, in which everything is free, subverted, exchanged, and rendered metaphorical through the use of collage. The techniques of overlapping and cutting provide the perfect distance for a new perspective on the artistic heritage of the Renaissance capital, generating a metamorphosis of the gaze thanks to postcards and other so-called “tourist” objects, postcards being pure fragments of space and time.

The overlapping made visible by the artists’ collages highlights the clichés and the beauty of one of the most attractive cities in the world, as she duplicates and manipulates the images of the “key” paintings of its quintessential museum: the Uffizi. Influenced by Florence’s classicism, the Medici’s cultural glory and the colony of creative, cultured, and enlightened minds, by the almost intangible depth of the city’s history, Audrey Guttman feels the urge to slice into this heritage to find a more balanced relationship with its oft-consumed beauty.

Maddalena Pelù