



Alan Bee. Paintings

June 15 - September 15 2022

Curated by Flaminio Gualdoni
with critical contribution by Luca Bochicchio

ABC-ARTE presents the first comprehensive solo exhibition of Alan Bee, an mysterious and inscrutable presence in the contemporary art scene, three years after the first presentation of his work in the collective exhibition "*Where the unmeasurable meets the measurable*", 2019.

The display discloses the strength of a prolific spirit for whom abstract art becomes a field of absolute expressive freedom. Proceeding through relatively compact operative cycles, and engaging with some of the strongest stances in the contemporary debate, Bee - *nom de plume* that pays homage to the bees and to a form of creation made of culling and transforming, one that Michel de Montaigne finely catches in the passage: "Bees suck the flowers here and there, but then make the honey, which is all their own, and no more thyme and marjoram", and whose basic visual structure is the modular cell of the honeycomb - shows a clear reference to *Abstraction lyrique*, but one where nature lays the groundwork, beside the aesthetic lexicon, for a conceptual and symbolic discourse that is deeply "political".

An elusive presence in the artistic milieu, Alan Bee is an outstanding figure for the absolute quality of his artistic production, which makes him a somehow crucial element in the landscape of contemporary art.

ABC-ARTE's exhibition traces, through strong examples, the essential passages of his work, and is accompanied by a new bilingual monographic volume edited by Antonio Borghese with introductory texts by Flaminio Gualdoni and Luca Bochicchio, for Silvana Editoriale edizioni.

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thu-sat: 09:30-13:30 e 14:30-18:30
sun-mon: on reservation

ABC-ARTE
Via XX Settembre 11/A Genova
T.010.86.83.884
info@abc-arte.com
www.abc-arte.com



Short biography:

Alan Bee is the pseudonym of a well-known businessman who over the years has passionately and skilfully constructed for himself a fully-fledged personality. The assumed name and plausible biographical sketch are completely compatible with the physical corpus of his works: from the fascination with German art, headed by Beuys and Schumacher, to the specific passion for the world of nature, of which bees are one of the universal symbols.

The substantial corpus and high quality of his works make Alan Bee a major figure in the panorama of European art of the last few decades.

List of attached artworks:

1. Alan Bee, *Animamundi*, 1978, 40x40x7 cm, mixed media on canvas
2. Alan Bee, *Animamundi*, 1978, 21x21x2 cm, mixed media on canvas
3. Alan Bee, *Genesis*, 1979, 150x150x4 cm, mixed media on canvas
4. Alan Bee, *Animamundi (Montecarlo)*, 1980, 33x25x1 cm, mixed media on canvas
5. Alan Bee, *Freedom*, 1984, 100x50x9 cm, mixed media on canvas
6. Alan Bee, *Free woman*, 1990, 200x140x5 cm, mixed media on canvas
7. Alan Bee, *Freedom*, 2002, 97x51x3 cm, mixed media on canvas