

ENZO FORGIONE

In pursuit of beauty and of the most profound emotions known to man, in Enzo Forgione's paintings nature is immortalized in its greatest splendor making a moment, a thought, a frisson eternal. 'His' orchids personify the fascination of what is visible, which he explores in an elegant and intimate way, while turning it into delicate, poetic images.

Driven by a seemingly rational and scientific approach to the attention of even the tiniest details - the artist is an associate member of the Society of Botanical Artists - he presents, in this new stage of his art, compositions of refined visual and expressive power. In his previous works, the solitary flower was the undisputed protagonist. Now, Forgione adds an element that gives the painting an unexpected evocative power: the reflection on water. As a metaphor and a symbol of sensuality and eroticism, the orchid and its narcissistic reflection bring into the 'Narcissus' series curious and intriguing wefts that flow into abstraction and end up disturbing the apparent peace of the *locus amoenus* (literally, a pleasant place) created by the painter. Thus, the artist abandons the neat and precise contours to give space and liberty to light and shadow effects, to offer mental and emotional refractions, a symphony of oil paint colors obtained with stunning confidence and mastery of pictorial means. The line between reality and fantasy unconsciously becomes blurred, thus offering a mind-induced reflection: it seems that Forgione has painted not so much the object itself, but moreover the experience and the thrill of it.

Unlike the more rigorous hyperrealism, these are warm and welcoming paintings able to communicate vibrant feelings along with the distinct personalities of orchids. This series marks a significant evolution in the painting of Forgione. A peaceful and meaningful coexistence between the unpredictable emotional sphere, represented by the reflection, and the rational sphere emphasized in the perfection of the details, emerges from the canvases together with its strong, expressive and captivating combination that takes the viewer into another dimension.

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