

Exhibition Event | Artist's Talk

Mario Sughì exhibition *at the*

The United Arts Club

21 June 2023, 7.30 pm, Dublin



"Painting, Writing and Street Photography.

Three Mediums or Three Visions?"

THE EXHIBITION: PAINTING & WRITING

Why have an exhibition with a short story?

A painting always interacts with its background and surroundings. And my paintings interact perfectly with my short stories. They are written in the same minimalist style. The characters in the story are the same ones we meet in the paintings.

The artworks take a lot from the stories and the stories too take a lot from the art. In other words, they communicate well.

The older paintings at the exhibition also provide a good context for the new paintings that I created for the show. You evaluate a work when you make comparisons.

Sometimes the subject matter keeps things together. In the present show what keeps things together is the subject matter but also the style (that is the artist's personality), and a similar style can be found in the new and less new paintings as well as in the short story "*Give me a ring tomorrow*", which I wrote for the show and which now stands in this little beautiful exhibition catalogue.

All those levels of comparisons create an interesting atmosphere and the artworks are open to different meanings and reveal/assume a sort of filmic quality.

PAINTING & STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

In previous exhibitions, for example the one in 2022 at the Italian Institute of Culture, Dublin, I exhibited my painting next to my street photography. Another perfect surrounding/background.

How do my paintings and my street photography relate to each other?

The most obvious thing is the subject matter. For both my street photography and paintings (and my short stories as well) the main element/subject are people, the people that I meet, I see, I look at, sometimes friends, many times people that I don't know that well either.

People portrayed in their surroundings, meaning Dublin.

Now when I take pictures, my street photography, the surrounding is Dublin, it is there, crystal clear. But when I paint the figures merge with a surrounding that is more imprecise. You do and you don't recognise Dublin. The same way sometimes we don't recognise/notice the place we live in and belong to: we just merge with it.

There is a sense of immediate beauty, in the way I paint people and background merging one into another, but also one of uncertainty.

Both paintings and street photography have in common the same sort of aggressive energy and style. They are very direct, fresh.

I hold the same attitude when I go towards the people in the street with my camera. That precise magic moment full of adrenaline when eyes meet and then I click — that moment, when you need to be fast but, also, you need to have the right attitude — is in my painting as well. Because I repeat your personality is your style. You have to learn how to bring it inside the work in the right way.

Now back to images, mediums, and comparisons

Street photography has to be consumed fast when it's fresh. One or two year later a nice picture is still a nice picture (meaning a nice photo) but it starts to lose the immediacy that it had in the second of the day you took it, in other words gradually it loses the energy of the moment: a bit like a news ___ or an old beautiful powerful car, say a Lamborghini car, still a beautiful car many years later but its initial energy has gone. Because cars like news and pictures belong to their own precise time.

On the other hand, the energy of a good painting lasts longer. Paintings belong to a continuous evolving present, their hidden meanings, the ones you have consciously or unconsciously placed in them, keeps the image alive.

PAINTING/MEANING

My paintings are very direct, meaning that everything is there in front of you.

The image and the paint brushes are on top and the meanings are a few layers below, just as a structure that keeps a house up.

My work is not conceptual, the subject matter is simple. I like to hear what other people think about it. I listen to them with great interest and I learn from what they say. But I don't feel I have to give an explanation myself. It took me time to create that exact image that now is there.

That's it now. I can't add anything anymore. I can't change it either. It would be a bit like when you invite some guests at home. You've just prepared a simple but delicious *Spaghetti alle vongole*, everybody sits and starts to eat with great pleasure, then one of the guests stands up and says: "That tastes nice but what is it?"

LINKS

for Mario Sughì

Give me a ring tomorrow exhibition at United Arts Club

8 June – 2 July 2023, Dublin

[Exhibition at United Arts Club](#)

[Give me a ring tomorrow PDF](#) (Exhibition Catalogue & Short Story)

[Street Photography](#)