

Press release

Sergio Sarra

nature

Curated by Lorenzo Bruni and Ludovico Pratesi

Rome, Museo Nazionale Romano
Palazzo Altemps

September 20 – November 12, 2023

Press preview: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 12:30 pm

Opening: Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 7 pm

On September 19, 2023, at 7:00 PM, the solo exhibition *nature* by Sergio Sarra (Pescara, 1961) will open at the Museo Nazionale Romano - Palazzo Altemps. Curated by Lorenzo Bruni and Ludovico Pratesi, the exhibition is deliberately designed to take visitors on a narrative journey through the *appartamento nobile* of the palazzo, encompassing a path from the *Sala isiaca* to the *Sala grande del Galata*. Within these spaces, the artist's works engage with the classical sculpture collections meticulously preserved within the museum, which belong to notable aristocratic lineages including the Ludovisi, Altemps, Riario, and Brancaccio families.

The exhibition title *nature* serves as an indication of the project, drawing from its definition as the future participle of the Latin verb *nascor*. This definition encapsulates the idea of something that will be generated or spontaneously arise. This statement reveals the artist's creative approach, where he has crafted a narrative that revolves around the interaction of the figure with its spatial surroundings, employing intricate interplays between lines and colors.

"I envisioned entering the rooms of the palazzo" the artist elaborates, "with the idea of creating non-invasive artworks that could interpret the historical context and the visual and symbolic stimuli existing within." Sergio Sarra's contribution consists of 24 works that delve into the concept of the pictorial object and the viewer's role, which is continually shaped by the overwhelming influx of modern hyper-information. Director Stéphane Verger state that "The Museo Nazionale Romano is pleased to continue a tradition of exhibitions related to the relationship between the classical and the contemporary, seen at the Palazzo Altemps venue in the works of Matthew Monahan (2016), Alfredo Pirri (2018), and Elisabetta Benassi (2019)".

Crafted on wood panels and paper, the acrylic paintings are the artist's interpretation of subdued images, akin to modern icons. These artworks exude a serene yet profound energy that magnifies, even in their absence, the austere and solemn potency of the figures. These works are either hung on the walls using the ancient cord system, or positioned on consoles and

wooden supports. They carry a distinctive evocative quality, giving rise to spectral forms that establish visual connections with the sculptures within the rooms. This interaction forges new and unforeseen links with Egyptian, Greek, and Roman masterpieces, ranging from the Torello Brancaccio to the Ludovisi Throne.

Within a collection of images that are layered and superimposed, drawing inspiration from diverse and meaningful iconographic sources, the involvement of a modern painter like Sergio Sarra takes on a conversational quality. This quality aptly highlights the seamless connection between the distinct "natures" present in artworks, spanning from Egyptian funerary sculptures to 16th-century frescoes.

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With special thanks to **Apalazzogallery** for their collaboration.

Exhibition catalog published by *Edizioni L'Obliquo*, 112 pages, Italian/English, texts by **Stéphane Verger, Vittorio Sgarbi, Cecilia Casorati, Lorenzo Bruni, Ludovico Pratesi, Giorgio D'Orazio**. Translated by **Angelica Federici**.

Press kit: bit.ly/sergiosarra_nature

Museo Nazionale Romano

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Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

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