



NICOLA RENZI **The Honesty of Intimacy**

Launch: Saturday 31 March 2018 at 18:18

UNU unonell'unico is proud to present an exhibition of the work of **NICOLA RENZI: *The Honesty of Intimacy***, launching on 31 March 2018 at 18:18 in the UNU unonell'unico exhibition space in Todi (PG).

The curator of the space, **Carlo Primieri**, has selected Nicola Renzi, a local artist from Perugia, to further his goal of promoting artists whose work contributes to the cultural development of the city of Todi and the region of Umbria, making the town a point of reference and hub for creatives and intellectuals.

The site-specific installation for this small vaulted room from the Roman period is a continuation of Nicola Renzi's recent series using guard rails. The result – a mosaic of strongly expressive colours bursting with energy and vitality – is the fruit of meticulous, painstaking work. Tiny strips of sticky labels are cut, painted, and finally stuck on the undulating metallic surface of the guard rail, which is then lacquered with transparent resin.

As Joseph Antenucci Becherer, Chief Curator at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan, states: “Everyone is familiar with these useful forms meant to delineate our paths and protect our journey. In their traditional, dusky gray, they fail to capture our attention beyond the functional and certainly don't spur our imagination. Yet Renzi hijacks the everyday form of roadsides and expressways and masterfully transforms it – nearly, but intentionally not fully – beyond recognition. Inverted in this way, the function and even the industrial personality of the guard rail are masked, and the striated blanket of color and pattern washes over the form like a spring rain. In Renzi's vision and hands, the transformation is complete. A new map is made. In a sense, he makes a landscape of colors and forms that marches north and south but also up hills and down into valleys, bringing to mind Henry Moore's figures turning into landscapes.”

The exhibition remains open to the public until 30 April 2018, Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00-12:30 and 15:00-19:00.

A catalogue with text by **Joseph Antenucci Becherer**, Chief Curator, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, will be available in the gallery.

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Project Supported by Primieri Hair. Nicola Renzi © All Rights Reserved

Please feel free to spread the word _ many thanks.

Nicola Renzi lives and works in Perugia, where he was born in 1972.

He studied at the Royal Academy of Art, The Hague and at the Accademia di Belle Arti 'Pietro Vannucci' in Perugia, where he now teaches both painting and sculpture on a regular basis. From the beginning he has worked with new and unusual materials, transforming them meticulously. From the complex rubber objects of the Nineties, which breath life into their environments, to the more recent work, he has always sought out the latest materials, transforming and altering them in completely new ways.

Renzi's numerous awards and public commissions include the XL Premio Suzzara in Mantova (2001), the Premio SEAT PagineBianche d'Autore in Umbria (2006), two squares for the new Palazzo della Regione in Udine (2007), a painting for the "Casa Galazzini", site of the new offices for the Comune di Breguzzo, Trento (2007), a permanent installation in the new cemetery in Gubbio (2008), the Premio Aldo Ajò for Contemporary Ceramics from the Comune di Gubbio (2008), a *bas relief* for the new headquarters of the Vigili del Fuoco in Terni (2008), a painting for the Provincial Headquarters of the Polizia Tributaria e Compagnia della Guardia di Finanza in Pisa (2011), the decoration and furnishing of the Cappella dell'Istituto Penitenziario di Tempio Pausania-Nuchis, Olbia (2012), two mosaics for the headquarters of the Corpo Forestale di Nocera Umbra, Perugia (2012), a ceramic *bas relief a terzo fuoco* for the headquarters of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato di Gualdo Tadino (2012), a new painting for the headquarters of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato di Citta' di Castello, Perugia (2012), a mural for the "Anna Frank" Elementary School in the Comune di Castelplanio, Ancona (2014), a *bas relief* for the new Vigili del Fuoco di Piacenza (2015), a sculpture for the school building at Brentonico in Trento (2015), two paintings for the new Casa Comunale in the Comune di Fonte Nuova, Roma (2015), the Premio Artline, Fondazione Campori, for artworks created for the Comune di Soliera, Modena (2017), a large-format contemporary painting for the Department of Infectious Diseases of the Blood at the Presidio Ospedaliero S.Chiera, Trento (2018).

Among his exhibitions are *Almost Home, Grand Rapids in Focus* (Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, U.S.A., 2016), *Ricognizione 2014 – Arte Contemporanea in Umbria* (Centro Italiano Arte Contemporanea, Foligno, Perugia, 2014), *tell mum everything is ok* (Palazzo della Penna Centre for Contemporary Culture, Perugia, 2013), *Dialoghi: Artisti contemporanei a confronto con le collezioni del museo*, Giacomo Balla-Nicola Renzi (Museo del Territorio, Biella, 2012), *54° Biennale di Venezia*, Regione Umbria (Palazzo Collicola, Spoleto, 2011), *ArtPrice UNICA* (Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids Michigan, USA, 2011), *XI Premio Cairo* (Palazzo della Permanente, Milano, 2010), *Fuoriluogo 14-Internazionale* (Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea di Termoli, Campobasso, 2009), *Arrivi e partenze* (Mole Vanvitelliana, Ancona, 2008), *Premio Lissone* (Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Lissone, Milano, 2005), *XIV Esposizione Quadriennale, Anteprema 2* (Palazzo Reale, Napoli, 2003), *Premio Maretti Editore* (Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, 2003), *Italia&Cile* (Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea Caserta, 2003), *In Ralenti* (Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Palazzetto Tito, Venezia, 2001), *XL Premio Suzzara* (Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea, Suzzara, Mantova, 2000), *Atlante* (Centro Arte Contemporanea Masedu, Sassari, 1999), *Produzione Resistente* (Museo Virgiliano, ex-convento Gonzaga, Mantova, 1999).