

ARTFORUM

Alessandro Roma

MART MUSEO D'ARTE MODERNA E CONTEMPORANEA DI TRENTO E ROVERETO

Corso Bettini, 43

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In his latest exhibition, Alessandro Roma demonstrates that collage is primarily a concept, not a mere artistic practice. Collage, for him, represents an opportunity to place various spatiotemporal dimensions on the same plane—to make them coexist. The sculpture *E chi in questo luogo è un eremita?* (And who in this place is a hermit?) (all works 2010), supports the proposition that collage is not only two-dimensional; made of resin, polyurethane, and enamel, this work is like a concretion of memories of distant experiences, tied to matter and translated into synthetic materials.

General references to art history abound in this show, while more specific evocations are found in the titles, which are borrowed from writings by the avant-garde novelist Giorgio Manganelli. Cycladic art and Lucio Fontana's ceramics seem to be present in some of these works as well, including *In realtà anche la terra verde ha qualche cosa di malizioso* (In reality even the green earth has something malicious about it), another of the three sculptures in the exhibition. The two bas-reliefs are also astounding, with a primordial-meets-modern aesthetic that only Brutalist architects knew how to do in 1950s Milan, an environment much beloved by both Manganelli and Roma. *Veramente il luogo ha qualche cosa di originario* (Truly the place has something original about it) is a fairy-tale landscape, made with an overlay of pencil scratches and spray paint on paper. But it is in works such as *Ho il vago ricordo di essermi lasciato trascinare* (I have a vague memory of letting myself be carried away) and *Questa cascata pare una prova di forza per la natura* (This waterfall seems like a test of strength for nature) that Roma carries his technique to extremes, using organza fabric along with oil and enamel to represent mysterious ravines, untamed nature, and romantic glades, in an incomparable revision of the "picturesque."

Translated from Italian by Marguerite Shore.



Alessandro Roma, *Ho il vago ricordo di essermi lasciato trascinare* (I have a vague memory of letting myself be carried away), 2010, oil, acrylic, and organza on paper, 59 x 39".

— Marco Tagliafierro

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Author: Marco Tagliafierro

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