

Claudio Verna
November 14, 2015 – January 9, 2016



Marc Selwyn Fine Art is pleased to announce our first exhibition of work by Italian artist Claudio Verna.

Claudio Verna is regarded as one of the foremost exponents (along with Claudio Olivieri, Giorgio Griffa and Claudio Battaglia) of Analytical Painting, an Italian movement which advocated a reinvention of the medium at a time when it was widely considered defunct. These painters were convinced that a renewal in painting was possible if approached through a non-representational, in-depth analysis of its fundamental materials and components – surface, support, color and mark.

Since 1967, Verna has abandoned any reference to subject, focusing instead on the dynamics of painting itself and its visual and perceptual phenomena, particularly color. In Verna's work, the emotion and sensibility of color functions in unexpected ways, contrasting with the rationality of his compositions. Color is used to explore revelation and concealment, often highlighting the mysterious and intangible border between light and dark shapes.

In *Ambiguo scuro*, 1968, a rich black central geometric shape becomes a spatial screen with bands of yellow, red and orange lilting along the edges, giving the impression that there is a secret composition underneath. In later works, such as *Dioniso*, 1990, Verna applied luminous reds, oranges and muted ochre with freer sensibility and texture. The impulse of the moment is achieved by loose, spirited and energetic brushstrokes in a dynamic all-over composition. On other occasions, unexpected and playful color combinations are juxtaposed against the systematic squares and crosses of draftsman's devices.

"Everything changes, but color still remains the absolute protagonist, with its ability to determine space and arouse emotions. [...] I've reached the conclusion that I cannot do without colour. I can only call myself a painter when I express myself with color."

Claudio Verna has had approximately 100 solo exhibitions in Italy and abroad and has participated in three different editions of the Venice Biennial. Born in 1937 in the Abruzzo region of central Italy, he moved to Rome in the 1960's. He has exhibited extensively in Italy and Europe, including Galleria D'Arte Moderna, Torino, Galleria Comunale d'Arte Moderna e

Contemporanea, Rome, Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce, Geneva, among others. His work is in the collection of institutions such as Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Museo del Novecento, Milan, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, and many others.