

MARZIA COLONNA: DEEPEST DREAMS & WAKING MOMENTS

17 October – 1 November 2024

Press Release

Private View: Wednesday 16th October, 6-8pm

For more information please contact:

Florence Batchelor, florence@portlandgallery.com

0207 493 1888

Portland Gallery is delighted to welcome Marzia Colonna to the gallery once again. This exhibition marks the 10th anniversary of our representation of Colonna's work. Since 2014 visitors and clients of the gallery have been spellbound by Colonna's distinctive collages and bronzes. Many of which are now in important private and public collections.



Waking Moment – collage, 100 x 122 cm

The title of this exhibition 'Deepest Dreams & Waking Moments' alludes to the fleeting nature of Colonna's subject matter and the distillation of her life experience. What starts as a chance encounter – a bird flying into her studio, the play of moonlight on a beach, a snippet of a dream – are captured in Colonna's memory. Then, after a period of contemplation Colonna mentally sets the scene and begins to paint the papers that will build her vision. Every rip of paper, every cut of the scissors is considered, and each piece of paper is deliberately glued in place allowing little opportunity to rework or modify. This conflict between the ephemerality of subject and the permanence of method is an engaging contradiction in Colonna's collages.

PORTLAND GALLERY

3 BENNET STREET • LONDON SW1A 1RP

TELEPHONE 020 7493 1888 • EMAIL art@portlandgallery.com

www.portlandgallery.com



Lovers Dance – bronze, 27 x 13 x 15 cm

Throughout the exhibition there is an undercurrent of transformation. This is most readily discernable in the selected bronze sculptures. 'Lovers Dance' and 'Back to Back' both explore the merging of female and male torsos and in 'Bird Man' a male figure has a cockerel's tail feathers undulating behind him. The perfectly smooth surface of the bronzes (achieved by creating the models in plaster rather than clay) enhances their surreal hybrid forms.

The transformation of time is equally evident when viewing Colonna's collages as a group – the seasons of the year distilled into a sprig of blossom or the fall of a tulip petal in contrast with the golden leaves of autumn or the winter bloom of a hellebore. On a finer timescale Colonna captures the shift between day and night in her landscape works. Warmth and colour exuding in 'Summer, 2023' and 'Sailing Day' in juxtaposition with her ethereal moonlit scenes such as 'A Frozen Sea' and 'Harvest Moon'. Colonna has always had an affinity for the moon and it is a recurring motif throughout this exhibition both in the more literal landscapes but also prominently in her new abstracts.



Take it to the Other Side – collage, 85 x 110 cm

Artist Biography

Marzia Colonna (b. 1951) was born in Pisa and studied sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti as well as printing at Morley College. She has been exhibiting in London since 1972. Her mixed media collages utilise juxtapositions of colour and form to re-create the experience of sensations: walking by the sea or in the woods, or of a body touched. Physical and instinctive, her aim is to capture the moment, not only in a visual sense, but in a way that echoes her feelings and personal response to the subject matter. Colonna originally trained as a sculptor and remains a Member of the Royal British Sculptors to this day. Her public commissions are on display in many locations across the UK including Salisbury Cathedral, Sherbourne Abbey and the National Sailing Academy.

Two of her collages have recently been printed as gift cards for the Royal Academy (image below).

- High resolution images are available on request
- Advanced viewings of artworks can be arranged on request
- The artist is available for interview
- An illustrated catalogue will support the exhibition



Marzia Colonna in her Studio



RA Greeting Cards featuring recent collages

About Portland Gallery

Portland Gallery was established in 1984 and are leading dealers in modern and contemporary British Art. Located in St James's, the gallery is spread over two floors and plays host to 14 exhibitions a year, principally solo presentations of represented artists and estate. The gallery is operated as an Employee Ownership Trust.