

## Lorenzo Puglisi Painting in New York

A cura di Guicciardo Sassoli De Bianchi

17 gennaio / 15 febbraio 2025



### Italian Cultural Institute, New York

Lorenzo Puglisi. "Pietà" (2025), olio su tela, 48x40 inch.

Lorenzo Puglisi's first solo exhibition in New York will open on January 17 at the Italian Cultural Institute on Park Avenue.

**"Lorenzo Puglisi. Painting in New York"**, curated by the art critic **Guicciardo Sassoli De Bianchi** will be inaugurated by the director of the Institute, **Fabio Finotti**. The works created specifically for the event during the artist's stay in the city, where he set up his studio in the new **Peccioli Pavilion** of the Italian Cultural Institute.

Puglisi's pictorial research uses black to create a background of absolute darkness: from which streams of light are released, defining volumes, faces, parts of the body, in a journey towards the essentiality of representation and full of references to the history of painting.

Visible until February 15, 2025, the exhibition highlights the iconographic vision and unmistakable style of the artist. Puglisi's mysterious subjects, accompanied by vigorous brushstrokes in shades of white and red, make their debut in the United States.

**Lorenzo Puglisi** (1971) lives and works in Bologna.

He is author of a pictorial research characterized by the widespread use of black colour on the canvas to create an absolute dark background, where the emanating streams of light are able to define volumes, faces, parts of the body, such as presences captured in an expression or a gesture, in a journey towards the essence of representation and full of references to painting's history. In recent years his artistic research has focused on large canvases related to great masterpieces of the past and filtered by his iconography, starting with the exhibition *Paintings* curated by Mark Gisbourne in Paris in 2016.

Numerous personal and collective exhibitions were held in Italy and abroad, at the CAC La Traverse in Paris (2015), the Riso Museum in Palermo (2016), the Pio Monte della Misericordia in Naples (2017), The Historical Museum in Bremen (2017), Villa Bardini in Florence (2017), the Casa Boschi Di Stefano Museum in Milan (2018), the Kulhaus in Berlin (2019), the Crypt of the King's Cross St. Pancras Church in London (2019), the Sacristy of Bramante in Milan (2019), Norman Foster's Moore House in London (2020), The Marino Marini Museum in Florence (2021).

In 2019, on the occasion of his solo exhibition *Il Grande Sacrificio* in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, he exhibited a six-meter-long oil painting on wood depicting his vision of the Last Supper, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Leonardo Da Vinci's death; a monograph on his work was published by the German publisher Hatje Cantz (Berlin).

During Frieze 2019 he exhibited in the Crypt of King's Cross St. Pancras Church in London and in the same year the director of the Uffizi Dr. Eike Schmidt commissioned him to paint a self-portrait for the collections of the Uffizi Galleries.

In 2020 he opened an exhibition at the Basilica of Santo Spirito in Florence with one of his paintings, *Crucifixion*, in front of Michelangelo's wooden crucifixion. In 2021 he held an exhibition of his works at the National Museum of Latvia in Riga (Art Museum Riga Bourse) in collaboration with the Uffizi Galleries in Florence who lent *Portrait of a Man*, a masterpiece by Jacopo Robusti, *il Tintoretto*.

In 2022 he was invited to exhibit his paintings at the 59th Venice Biennale in the Arab-Syrian pavilion on the island of San Servolo, setting up an exhibition entitled *Journey to the end of the night* arousing great interest from the media, critics and the public. In the same year his self-portrait entered the collection of the Uffizi Galleries: the work is now part of the corpus of 255 works (from 1400 to the present day) on display in the new exhibition inaugurated in 2023 in twelve rooms of the Florentine Museum with authors such as Primaticcio, Beccafumi, Rembrandt, Van Dick, Rubens, Delacroix, Wildt, Hayez, Sironi, Ensor, Vedova, Carrà, up to contemporaries Pistoletto, Gormley, Clemente, Paladino, Bill Viola and Ai Weiwei.

In 2023 a monograph about his work written by Marco Meneguzzo is published by Skira Editore (Milan) as the summary of twenty years of his career. In October of the same year he held an important exhibition in London at Brun Fine Art Gallery, venue in Old Bond Street.

In 2024 he created a theatrical curtain for an important Florentine collection, following authors such as Aldo Mondino, Carla Accardi, Getulio Alviani, Mimmo Paladino, Luigi Mainolfi, Pino Pinelli, Fabrizio Plessi; in the same year he opened an exhibition with Aldo Mondino organized by Aldo Mondino Archive and the gallerist Santo Ficara.