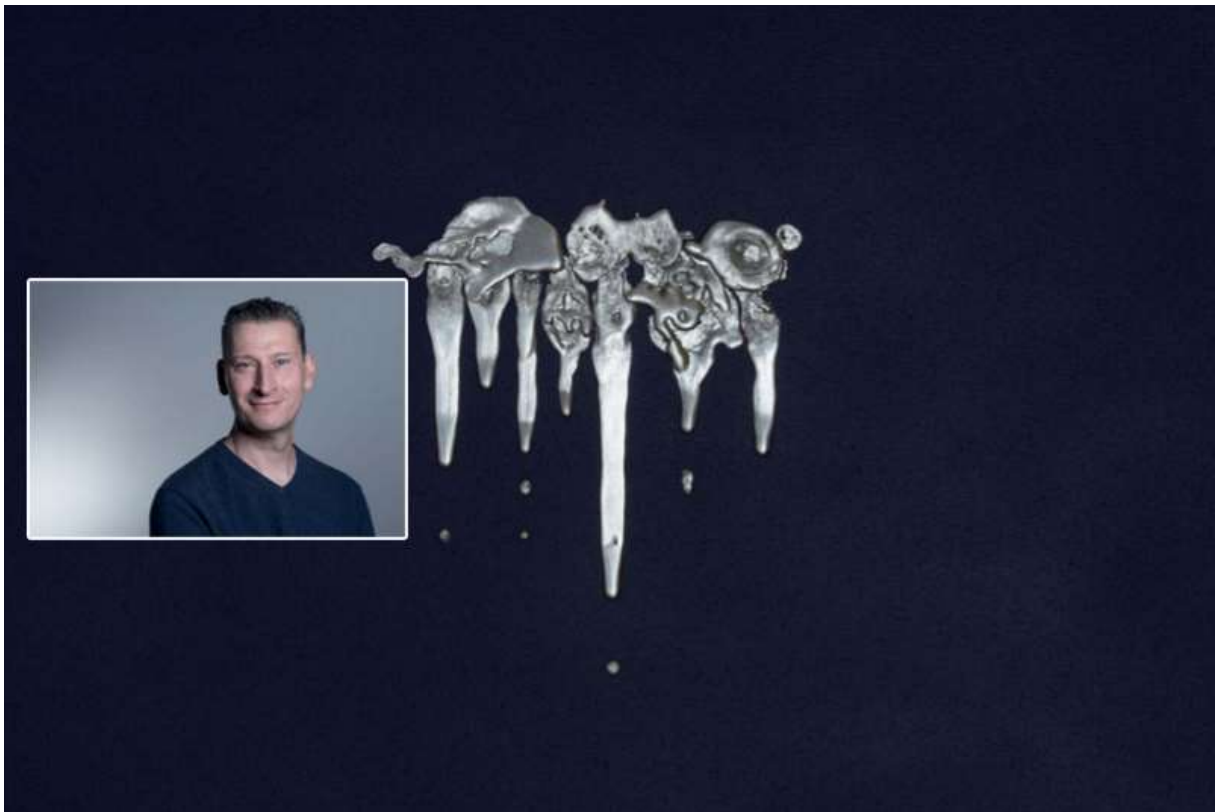


Events - Art and culture

Painting and sculpture merge: "Elements", Axel Becker's exhibition in Monreale
At the Sala Novelli of the Ex Monastero dei Benedettini

image: <https://www.monrealepress.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/axel-becker2-1.jpg>



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The exhibition of German master Axel Becker, entitled "Elements", will be inaugurated on Thursday 18 April at 12 noon in the Sala Novelli of the Ex Benedictine Monastery. The exhibition focuses on clean monochromes: Cartesian-based "clear and distinct" elements of a broad artistic discourse.

The artist is a lover of evocation and synthesis: a tantum necessary, therefore, nothing more than necessary in his works. Becker, in fact, directs his minimalist observation to a series of rigorous monochromes that are absolute, but which are then assembled together, or on which metals are liquefied. These metallic incrustations reflect the light and, these flashes unite the uniform base of the canvas with a nature without a recognizable shape. With references to the abstraction of Mondrian, Malevič and Klein, to minimalism but also to lyrical and symbolic evocation, Becker's monochromes refer to an aesthetic / artistic context and a philosophical / metaphysical one. In dynamic contrast with the rational 'norm' of the rigorous monochrome and 'geometric' canvas, abstract expressionism makes its appearance on it: informal drips and gestural fusions of shiny metals.

At the base of the fundamental elements (water, air, fire, earth) and alchemists lies the flame that does not destroy, but melts, unifies, creates and vivifies. The liquid state turns into solid, transporting the becoming into the still dimension of the eternal. Thus, that only apparently uniform color of the backdrop is enlivened by a myriad of vital impulses that lead to a calm reflection, veiled by a suffused lyricism in close empathy between the author-chemist (Becker) and the spectator-observer, who is involved in the work.

There can be two sets in which to group Becker's works. The first is given by works each consisting of a series of monochromatic canvases placed side by side, as if to form a puzzle or, better, as megatiles of an abstract and geometric mosaic in the manner of a Mondrian painting. The second set consists of canvases with superimposed liquefactions: falling drops of a virtual rain with the appearance of 'living' and volatile mercury, puddles with the realistic call to splashing water, petrified waterfalls, glaciers and torrents in flood. Everything is always played around water and metals, their heating and their fusion and evaporation and again their cooling and their condensation and solidification: solve et coagula pursued alchemists, to evolve and regenerate.

The series dedicated to money is like a quiet reflection on the relativity of the value of money itself: embedded copper and brass coins, incorporated in lead leaks, still on monochrome canvases, are blocked, made prisoners as in the depths of the abyss after the sinking of the ship that loaded them; their ringing no longer resounds, money no longer 'runs', has become useless, without value, has lost its falsely divine and omnipotent purpose.

"Elements - explains Giampaolo Trotta - elements of a whole, that is components, pieces of a mosaic, fundamental parts constituting a whole through their aggregation, but also chemical elements of the Periodic Table, gaseous, liquid and solid. With this term, therefore, we can understand both the various monochromatic and serial pieces or tiles that constitute the various possible aggregations, as in a mechanistic chain of the DNA of life".

"As in the great transcendental allegory of the sacred and royal citadel of Monreale and its mosaics - adds Trotta - it is precisely the Light that unravels the skein: the light reflected by those metallic drips, shapeless or otherwise formal presences, personalize and it vivifies, almost spiritualizing it, the matter governed by pure reason and by the eternal and immutable laws, geometric, mathematical and physical, of the evolution and survival of Nature in the Universe".

With the sponsorship of the Municipality of Monreale, the exhibition curated at Giampaolo Trotta, will be open to the public free of charge from Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm until 2 May 2019.

Read more at <https://www.monrealepress.it/2019/04/15/pittura-e-scultura-si-fondono-in-elementi-a-monreale-la-mostra-di-axel-becker/#eqE2eEKetKvt6V2J.99>