

Isabella Costabile

2020

Artist Statement

The processes I've embraced in these bodies of work are in part very influenced by thoughts, actions and values gathered in everyday life, as an attempt to remember details that easily escape the mind. Through the use of discarded materials and objects found in the environment I live in, an intention is communicated through a selection of already existing forms. The different, new arrangements in which these objects find themselves, open the possibility to physical and functional changes that consequently reveal new perceptions of them. This method of abstraction decisively accentuates awareness to forms and shapes in my surroundings causing a shift in perception which replaces the automatic actions and ideas reality is usually defined by with artistic potential.

My practice consists in the collection of various forms over time, in search of the right combinations to develop a sculptural composition. After reflecting for a while on the materials I have in my hands, there comes a moment when I'm sure how to use them. It is important to note the way I act on found materials, always treating them as starting points. This method has expanded with the development of a resourceful and improvised approach to the materials I use, also enabling a distant relationship to consumerism and a deep consideration of my working and living conditions.

I find it important to give intense attention to the many aspects of production that need to be carried on, in the urgency to develop a more personal rhythm in my growth as an artist. Writing is also a source of elaboration within my practice, assisting the communication of critical thoughts that are close to my experience.



Untitled
2020
Metal fan guard,
grills, cloth, book
cover, wood,
plexiglass, metal
scraps, wire, plaster,
water-based paint.
85 x 42 x 44 cm



Untitled
2019
Plastic crate, nails,
broken furniture,
wood, cement,
papier-mâché,
stones, water-based
paint.
95 x 36 x 24 cm



Untitled
2019
Plastic crate, nails,
broken bricks,
ceramic tile, stones,
water-based paint.
110 x 37 x 35 cm



Frustone

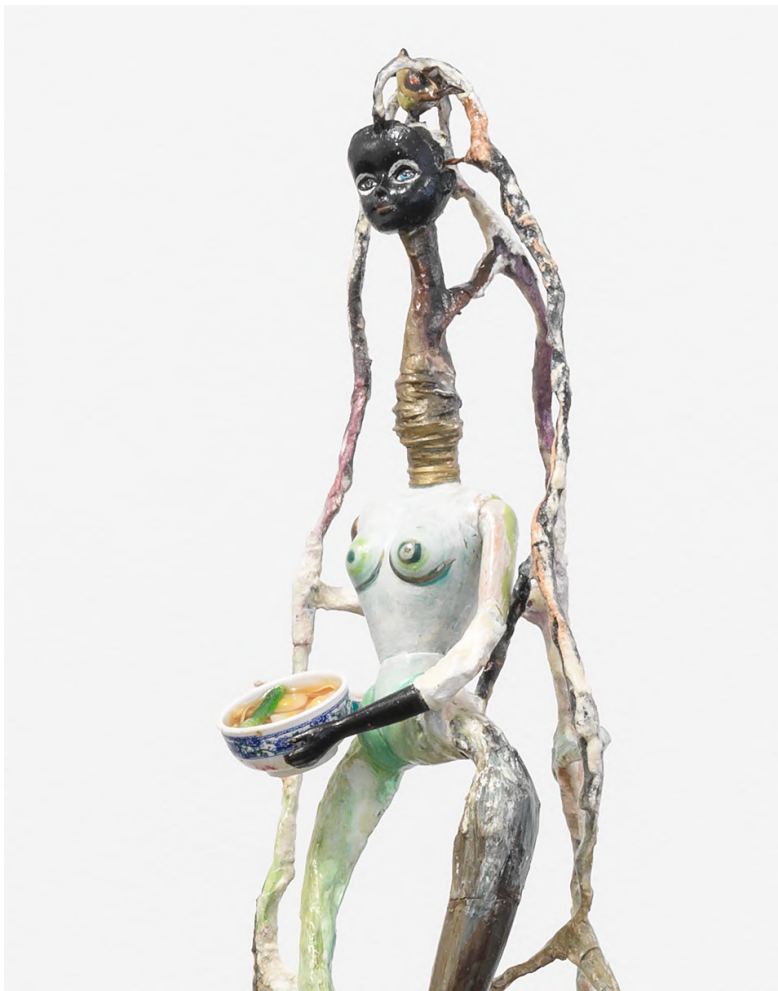
2018

Used toy, wood,
snake skin, ceramic
tile, metal scraps,
broken glass, plaster,
papier-mâché, water-
based paint.

116 x 35 x 35 cm



Santa Maremma
2018
Used toys, candle,
broken furniture,
broken glass, forks,
spoons, metal
scraps, plaster,
papier-mâché, water-
based paint.
120 x 40 x 26 cm



Left to right, details, *Santa Maremma*, *Frustone*, 2018



Al pascolo,
2018
Used toys, planting
containers, wood,
broken glass, metal
scraps, papier-
mâché, plaster,
water-based paint.
80 x 70 x 50 cm



*Il confidente della
natura*
2018
Wood, metal scraps,
egg shells, papier-
mâché, plaster,
water-based paint.
60 x 46 x 6 cm



Exhibition view, *Gli Ultimi Artisti*, Armada, 2018



Exhibition view, *Gli Ultimi Artisti*, Armada, 2018

Gli Ultimi Artisti
Emiliano Furia - Isabella Costabile
9.10.2018 - 17.11.2018

Armada, Via privata Don Grazioli 75, Milano
www.armadamilano.com

Art has always paid tribute to man. In respect to its purpose in the past, the last artists are the last ones to whom the term 'artist' is suitable, despite the set of secondary ambitions it represents today. To honor the metaphysics of the person in an age like this means to explore far and wide, on the surface and in depth, in search of where this feeling still takes refuge, to live art as the memory of true art.

In these places it is possible to rejoice at one's belonging to the human race, at all the efforts made to contain and limit impulses to unreasoned desires. In addition to the delicate and masterly work of tolerance, carried out on these same urges, intimately knowing their generative power at the same time.

Staying awake without abandoning oneself to the drunkenness of creative interpretations of our time that enervate the spirit, finding joy in that which is limited means to go back to appreciating one of our important conquests.

Take yourself back to those places where illusions surge powerfully and through that source you'll have enough energy to make a great leap, often accompanied by a deafening scream and with eyes half closed, still fearful of a much less stimulating truth, you'll find yourself saying: "Alas! I'm inside but I'm against."

The last artists serve the living. They commit themselves to understanding the metaphysics of the person and recognize that humanity is charged with cycles of change. The wind runs through each of us; some would like to give meaning to the beginning and the end.

They are said to be the last to acknowledge a current discrepancy in the path of struggle for truth. The symbolic event of the end suggests at the same time the beginning of the unknown. This metaphorical form serves to understand certain lessons from reality and collective efforts, rather than perceiving them as a continuous occurrence to adapt to. The practice of narration is crucial in moments of social uncertainty. As mythology seems to confirm an implosive will, how can one give to its duties with sincerity, noticing the physicality of these changes?

Knowing the limits and merits of subjectivity with patience but without fear, helps to fulfill a sense of interpretation and involvement in the objective field. The beauty achieved through a cultural position, communicates a process of the soul that extends an experience beyond itself. A relation of trust between the unpredictable and the decisions in everyday life that balances the psyche and its needs, to live the magic that the ego doesn't allow itself.



Hermit Moon
2017
Egg shells,
barnacles, pine
cones, chestnut
shells, stones,
plaster, papier-
mâché, metal scraps,
water-based paint.
184 x 60 x 27 cm





High Priestess,
2016
Fruit skin, pine
cones, barnacles,
metal scraps, plastic
wrap, nails, papier-
mâché, water-based
paint.
83 x 60 x 18cm

CV

Isabella Costabile
b. 03/12/1991

Education:

2017-2020

MA Fine Arts

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, Zurich

2011-2016

Diploma di primo livello in Pittura, equivalent to Bachelor Fine Arts
Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Milan

Exhibitions:

2020, (Upcoming) 17a Quadriennale di Roma, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome

2020, (Upcoming) Solo show, Galleria Le Vite, Milan

2018, *Gli Ultimi Artisti*, with Emiliano Furia, Armada, Milan

2017, *Dio c'e'*, BFA Boatos, Milan

2016, *Where wild flowers grow*, Armada, Milan

2014, *Good guys (Granriserva)*, Gasconade, Rome

Curatorial activity:

2014-2018, Co-founder of Armada, Milan. An artist-run space managed by a group of 16 artists and professionals working with institutions and magazines dedicated to contemporary art. In collaboration with the group, I assisted in the organization of the exhibitions and in writing the press releases. I was mainly responsible for the translation of these texts from Italian to English.