

THE MAGIC FLUTE: reality, myth, metaphor

Il Flauto Magico, Spazio Papel Art Gallery, Milano 2011

The anthropologists have established from immemorial time that fairy tales have very often a basis in reality. In their essential unit they reflect actual events, but then transformed, through their structure and thanks to the human story-telling ability, in fantasy tale. Which in turn, rooted in tradition, it ends up becoming a myth, assuming a timeless aura that goes beyond the chronological contingencies. In this perspective, there is perhaps no more chameleon "story" able to withstand the time as that of The Magic Flute.

No wonder if artists from every sector have been meaningfully influenced by this "myth". Since a few years, Giovanni Robustelli loves to immerse himself in the fairy-tale material (the ascribed great encroachments in Alice and Pinocchio), of which he offers visual interpretations of great value. In this case, here it is precisely a work with large watercolors on the theme of The Magic Flute.

With the notable difference, however, that his is NOT an illustration of its contents, but a glowing reference to his suggestions, and carried out through an authentic chromatic explosion (that's why my emphasis, about the semantic variation on Tamino colour). Therefore, to Robustelli it does not assume the value of a visualisation of the story, but rather a visual counterpoint of its mythical values, especially through an explosive boiling over of colours: warm, expressive, fascinating.

Which thus become a support to the symbolism of the story. A valid comparison for the eyes, on the symbolism of the relationship between the sun and darkness, between good and evil, between day and night, the number 3, the opposites, the mystery, overturnings ... Concepts, then, differently "dug" thanks to his interventions which have been developed, with designs (ballpoint, ink) and short texts. A solid graphic support to the flimsiness of the colour value.

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