

# IO SOLO

Giovanni Rossi

October 23rd - November 28th 2021

Curated by

Ilaria Bignotti, Vera Canevazzi  
Caterina Frulloni e Camilla Remondina

Press Preview: Thursday, October 21st 2021, 11.30 am

VIP Preview: Thursday, October 21st 2021, 5.00 pm

Opening: Saturday, October 23rd 2021, 5.00 pm

Locations

Rawness Scents, Corsetto Sant'Agata 22, Brescia  
Sant'Agata Church, Corsetto Sant'Agata 27, Brescia

In the anniversary's occasion of its first opening year, Rawness Scents inaugurates the first solo exhibition by Giovanni Rossi entitled *Io Solo (Myself Alone)*. This site-specific art project will be showcased both in the spaces of the boutique in Corsetto Sant'Agata 22 in Brescia and in the spiritual setting of Sant'Agata church, overlooking the homonym Corsetto.

The project draws inspiration from the world of 100% natural, organic and botanical scents which are proposed by the boutique, opened in 2020 by Giovanni Norcia. Starting from this idea, the young artist based in Brescia has focused his attention on the iconography and ancient narratives linked to the essences, trying to visualise the mystery of the pain felt by each person and which inevitably calls for identity and solitary reflection: not in a negative sense, but as an appeal to the dimension of fragility and suffering. These feelings are not to be understood as obstacles to life and to our journey, but as inevitable conditions, able to represent, for each of us, an opportunity to discover Humanity and personal and social elevation.

Hence, the meaning of the large installation at the centre of Rawness Scents' dark room: a white kneeler on which golden brambles are positioned, entitled *Con Silenzio e Lacrime (With Silence and Tears)*, created in 2021. The bramble stings, pierces, wards off.

Kneeling on it is an act of courage, which many might refuse. Thus, metaphorically, the young artist reflects on the difficulty of accepting the pain, retaining or rather protecting it, as it is personal, unspeakable and at the same time the source of a transformation, of an access to something else, and to the Beyond.

Echoing this installation, the artwork *Se sono rose fioriranno (Time Will Tell)*, also created during 2021, consists in a bronze sculpture of a pencil whose handle is made of a rose stem complete with thorns. The object, inspired by a rose fragrance available at Rawness Scents, provides the potential of suffering – still represented by the thorns – to be transformed into something creative: if we can hold the pencil we can write, draw, visualise and transform the absence and negation of pain into presence and rebirth.

The titles of Rossi's artworks, which have always a hint of gentle irony, are thus intended to underline the value of words and language in everyday life, but also to open up space to metaphysics and transcendence through the smallest, most minute, domestic element: as it happens in *Le Porte Regali (The Royal Doors)* (an allusion to Pawel Florensky's book *Ikonostasis*), a tiny altar whose golden doors look out onto a blue sky. Finally, *Perché io? (Why me?)*, a white dove, pierced by golden arrows, which only initially seems to renounce its glorious ray, while in fact its flight continues, despite the darts that pierce it: another invitation to continue flying, despite or rather due to everything that can happen to each of us and make us suffer. In the Church of Sant'Agata, at the entrance and central to the nave, is located *Tentativo di toccare il Cielo (Attempt to Touch Heaven)*: a cast of the young artist's index finger, extending into a pole over two metres high: a visualisation of the impulse towards the Beyond, an image of the attempt to reach God. There are those who will look at the finger, as well as at its direction: because the ultimate aim of this work, which echoes all the pointing fingers in the history of art, from Michelangelo to Caravaggio, is precisely the understanding towards which perspective the image points, between materiality and transcendence. The exhibition is accompanied by a special, limited edition of *Se sono rose fioriranno (Time will tell)*: 14 + 2 a.p. gilded bronze copies, to leave a sign of this fundamental theme – beloved to the young artist – in those collections willing to acquire the artwork: overcoming pain through the promise of art. An important and salvific message of which the Rawness Scents project becomes the voice and the multifaceted image.

Giovanni Rossi is born in 1996 in Brescia, where he currently lives and works. He graduated in Contemporary Visual Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts "SantaGiulia" in Brescia with a thesis entitled The bovine phenomenon in art: Beyond its image. In 2019 he has been nominated by the Academy, among all the students, to take part in the AccadeMibac: a competition organised by MiBACT, in collaboration with the Quadriennale di Roma, to promote young Italian artists. He is one of the finalists for the Paolo VI Award promoted by the Paolo VI Collection in Concesio (Brescia). Since 2020, he has been represented by the auction house Auc Art, specialising in emerging international art. In the same year he is selected for the Palazzo Monti Degree Show in Brescia. He is one of the finalists of the tenth stage of the Jaguart Brescia project, in collaboration with Artissima-Turin. Recent exhibitions in 2020-2021 include: GestoZero, Museo di Santa Giulia, Brescia, Museo del Violino, Cremona and Ex Chiesa di Santa Maria Maddalena, Bergamo, which is based on a project by Maurizio Donzelli and curated by Ilaria Bignotti, Matteo Galbiati and ACME Art Lab (Skira catalogue); in 2021: Arte al Kilo, promoted by Marina Bastianello Gallery, Mestre; Kenopsia, curated by Natalie Zangari at Palazzo Palazzi, Brescia; Passaggi, exhibition of the finalists of the Paolo VI Prize, curated by Paolo Sacchini and Marisa Paderni, Collezione Paolo VI, Concesio.

*Rawness Scents defines the new way of wearing natural, organic, handmade perfumes, those that trap all the power of Nature, leaving intact all the beneficial properties of plants. Raw materials are the beginning of this project and determine its path. The selection takes into consideration botanical brands with a strong personality and an avant-garde vision of Luxury. Being sustainable and natural becomes the first step to ethically define a perfume.*

The exhibition will be open until 28th November 2021  
Tuesday to Saturday 10.00 am / 7.00 pm  
Free Entrance