

- Da "Thisday" del 3 aprile 2010 - "An Evening So Surreal" - "Guest at the Italian Embassy in Abuja were treated to a spellbinding evening as Italian painter Paolo Terdich showcased his work".

"Contemporary Italian painter Paolo Terdich, in a cultural evening at the Italian Embassy, Abuja, presented an array of compelling works of art. Terdich work's most distinguishing features are in the provision of a contrast between back ground and figures which enables his works to have an immediate and awe-inspiring realism. He achieves this by accurately depicting the individuals isolated from the background, thereby introducing a surrealist atmosphere, but also captures their soul and truthfully depicts each flaw, exposing their human vulnerability.

His style reflects his ability to master securely different techniques, which he treats with laudable precision and extreme skill, rendering figurative subjects, characterized by luminous surfaces and compelling images that offer a combination of disquiet, uncertainty, urgency, calm, and spirituality.

A guest noted: "The Italian painter vibrates various spirits, as variety of subjects emerges in his works, which is linked to the hyper-realistic portraits that takes only the dramatic precision, not the inner emptiness that gripped the most of the other artists of his era".

His works can be defined as "investigative", a sort of search for hidden truths, within a reality which seems to be limited, perhaps lost and expressed almost to the edge of a fantastic world. They seem to transmit his uneasiness, his valiant search of perfection in daily life, of his continual search of an ideal. From such an attitude a poetic connotation is depicted, especially by the light which seems as if it is being drawn out from the soul of the colour.

Watching the works of Terdich, either polychrome or in black and white, it is understood to which levels he arrived at the representation of the real, and which implications can be contained in a final result that is more or less realistic.

According to the painter, his realism, driven by uncommon technical capabilities, is a silent and mysterious narrative, which offers an emotionally and psychologically-themed presentation urging the viewer to search for hidden truths within a reality which seems to be limited.

"In this painting I tried to exalting the light and its contrast with the shadow, through my fascination with form and my attention to detail, texture and atmosphere. My intention was to pick out the psychology of the characters with a suffused sensuality. I wanted to obtain an uncommon atmosphere and an evanescent brightness. I tried to render through a realistic portrait a silent and intimate atmosphere, to arouse feeling of waiting and of mystery from which the silent wrapping up the images can be perceived", he said while describing a work dubbed, *Pensieri 4 (Thoughts 4)*, a 2005 portrait of oil on canvas.

He said:" The face of this young woman has one melancholic expression and I allowed to emerge all problems of the individual through one careful psychological surveying of the subject. She is represented during a moment of rest, in a meditation moment, of loneliness, perhaps incapable to react to her sad destiny, with their eyes that express the more intimate secrets, through a lyric suggestion that is involved the spectator. My figures are never portrayed with other individuals, to emphasize the loneliness of the contemporary human being.

"I did not have the ambition to idealize the subjects I represented, but simply to search knowledge beyond the first appearance, to capture and express their soul and feeling, to transmit their uneasiness, loneliness and existential pains. I tried to transfers on the surface of the canvas moments of lived life, analyze existential problems and I tried to lead the observers to reflect".

This atmosphere has been appropriately emphasized in his last works "Water", where the subjects are broken within the crystal water in a multitude of dynamic reflections.

"The water works represent my last project, an extreme challenge which combines the message I tried to transmit in my portraits and figures and the technical complications to render the movement, the transparencies and the light reflections of water and the fragmentation effects of bodies under water. These works are unusual and modern paintings, of the complex realization, with the subjects that crush the crystal of the water in decomposed glares that they decompose the bodies underwater".

"I have been always attracted by water where I feel in my real environment where I can fluctuate without weight and in full absence of noise. Being a dive master, I experienced the feeling of freedom underwater and I tried to pass this feeling through my painting".

Drawing from his 2008 work *Acqua 7 (Water 7)*, an oil/acrylic on canvas: the center here is again the human being dipped in a streaked blue liquid in thousand streams, from the more or less intense colour. He reached a remarkable achievement in his poetic: disappeared the fidelity to the model, all it becomes more fluid and fantastic. These atypical swimmers are new subjects, unknown and, for their dynamism and chromatic liveliness, they communicate infinite feelings of movement and freedom.

Compared to the portraits, where is evident inner psychological torment of the subject. Through water works he tried to transmit a feeling of freedom, serenity, although the feeling of loneliness remains. The whole atmosphere is still intimate and silent but now it is also relaxed. Also through the color he try to have the observer feeling the melancholy, but in a serene atmosphere.

In a nutshell, water and women are two sides of the same medal; a dialogue that covers the entire production of Terdich, a mixture of languages that the artist uses for its personal way of communicating feelings.

Senator Iroegbu e Damilola Oyedele