

PRESS RELEASE

THE FOUR SEASONS OF SIMAFRA

PALAZZO GIANFIGLIAZZI BONAPARTE – GALLERIA ZETAEFFE FIRENZE

On September 26th at 6.30 pm the exhibition “Le Quattro Stagioni di Simafra” (The Four Seasons of Simafra)” at Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi Bonaparte (4 Lungarno Corsini, Florence) will be opened. It can be visited until October 10th according to the opening times (10am – 1pm/ 3.30pm – 7pm; each day except on Monday). The Florentine Artist Riccardo Prospero, known with the pseudonym of Simafra, displays four masterpieces, 4x3meters each, portraying the four seasons alongside with other paintings working as a scenario. Do not miss the performance of the actor Alessio Montagnani, which is going to happen upon the opening of the exhibition.

The exhibition is thought as an itinerant project. Last June the artist displayed the cycle of the Four Seasons at Palazzo Panichi in Pietrasanta **and he is now going to display his paintings in the context of “Bellissima”, the event which is going to turn via Maggio into a location rich in art and culture during the week of Festival of Antiques at Palazzo Corsini.**

The exhibition is going to take place in some of the stunning rooms of Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi Bonaparte, a historical house where all the year round countless cultural events take place. Mrs Tuzzy Maestrelli De Hagenauer is responsible for scheduling all the events.

The exhibition is coordinated and promoted by Galleria Zeta Effe Arte Contemporanea, an art gallery having its premises at via Maggio 47/rosso in Florence with the collaboration of TATICS – Human Evolution.

“The huge paintings portraying the Four Seasons can be identified as places of a path constantly going from outside to inside and vice versa. The artist metaphorically links the edges of reality to his personal inward-looking evolution through the wire of his art. The paintings voice a silent dialogue between the I of the painter and the cyclical evolution of nature which reveals itself through the interchange of seasons. Art implements this correspondence, by making visible what the artist perceives inwardly. Therefore any change stems from an underlying dynamics, any explanation to evolution relying on the deep meaning of nature. Thus life is a conscience revealing itself as a constant becoming, able to conceive the void as a place of a next rebirth, the time of waiting as a feature of which the next meet-up is made. Therefore any chaos upon which the making of interior worlds is based is a fertile humus for growing one’s own emotional life. Death and resurrection of the responsive soul draw the pure linearity of a circle (the predominant component of the paintings), where the end is the beginning of the next path, as the eternal condition linking us to Ourselves, to the Land and the Mankind living on it” (Sonia Zampini).

Since 1427 **Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi Bonaparte**, overlooking Lungarno Corsini, has been renewed several times throughout the following centuries. In 1818, when the family of Giacobazzi extinguished, the Palace was turned into a hotel and was called “Hotel delle

Quattro Nazioni” (“Four- Country Hotel”): here stayed many famous people, such as Alessandro Manzoni, one of the best-known Italian writers lived during the 19th century. Luigi Bonaparte, King of the Netherlands, also stayed here, before purchasing the building in 1828. Afterwards the building was bought by Ranieri Lamporecchi, a famous Florentine solicitor and here was born and was hosted for several years his niece Virginia, the young Countess of Castiglione, well-known for her lure and her friendship with the Emperor Napoleon III of France. In 1867 the Belgian Baron Adrian Van Der Linden Hoogsworst, husband to the Florentine noblewoman Aurora Guadagni, bought the building and made it even more stunning and elegant. Known for both its furniture and parties, Palazzo Gianfigliuzzi Bonaparte became one of the most glamorous and exclusive in Florence, so that Hippolite Taine talked about it in his “Voyage en Italie” as the place hosting “the jewels of Florence”. Nowadays Maria, niece to Adrian and Baroness De Hagenauer, whom her friends call “Tuzzy”, contributes to keep the palace as glamorous as it was during the 19th century.

Riccardo Prospero-Simafra

Born in Florence, where he now lives, Riccardo Prospero – pseudonym Simafra – is a painter, decorator and restorer. He worked in Italy and abroad, showing his expertise in art galleries in Paris, Berlin and London. In Berlin two of his works were used as part of a set design of a movie broadcast by ARD, one of the German TV channels. Moreover, his works are part of prestigious Italian and foreign private collections, among which: that one of the Ministry of Economics of Liban; that one of Diego della Valle at Palazzo Tod’s; that one of the vice-president of Wolkswagen; that one of the Restaurant Cipirani in Ibiza; some of his works decorate the apartment of Cameron Diaz in New York and other paintings are part of the collection of the Prince of Qatar Royal Family. In 2012 Prospero took part to Art Arsenal during the Two-Year International Festival of Kiev. In January 2012 he set up “La Bottega Moderna”, independent cultural space and studio of the artist. In June 2013 Prospero displayed his works at Hotel Cellai in Florence and in August he displayed his works at the collective exhibition Odds & Sods in the prestigious art gallery Art Moor House (a building made by Norman Foster) in London; in December 2013 he displayed his works at Cadogan Contemporary Art gallery in London. He actively works as an artist in Florence and since 2011 he has worked together with the Architect Michele Bonan and the Studio Dimore Collection. Moreover, he worked together with the historic Florentine brand Boralevi (producing carpets) located in Via Maggio in Florence, with whom he made drawings with his signature for the production of Contemporary Carpets. In 2014 Prospero displayed his works at Hotel Baglioni in London and he began to collaborate with the Art Gallery “Virginie Barrou Planquart” in Paris. In March 2015 he ran his first exhibition in Paris. In May he showed his Project “The Four Seasons” in the town of Pietrasanta.

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