

Renato Leotta

Unfolding of Time

(Archaeology–Patisserie)

6 June – 5 September, 2025

Preview: 6 June, 6 - 8 pm



Unfolding of Time
(Apollo di Piombino)
wax, c-print, 2025

Sprovieri is delighted to present *Unfolding of Time (Archaeology-Patisserie)*, the third solo exhibition of Renato Leotta at the gallery.

Archaeology-Patisserie

I imagined the landscape as the unfolding of time upon surfaces, including my own.

The outer layers contain an inner part. Fragrant surfaces – like wax or marzipan – or soft ones, like raw clay, compose a theatre of sweet images that belong to time: a barely sketched car (*Gita*), the cast of a beach shaped by the tide, imagined as the side of a female body (*Nudo*). A collection of universal images that speak of a slow and inexorably welcoming landscape; one rooted in the time of the Mediterranean.

Some mirrored shelves from an old patisserie, recently closed in the centre of Turin, act as ruins or a portal (*capriccio*). Along their upper edge, they host fragments of artifacts unearthed near ancient Greek and Archaic–Siceliota settlements.

A small slab of marble, painted with cyanotype – with the light of the sun – contains a sketched in pastel a map of the sky and the arrangement of the stars at a specific, potentially meaningful, moment. It suggests where we are – or where we've come from (*natal chart*).

On the ground, a loaf of bread – or perhaps a stone – glazed.

Renato Leotta

Mediterranean sentimental assortment

The surface as an archaeological excavation site, awaiting something to surface, a figure, a perceptible image, materializing. Less to instruct us on its nature, but rather to inform itself on what it endures over time. To capture the instant between its flagrant apparition and its obsolescence, to provide a support for its sweetness, its fragrance.

The fascination with these amalgams, mixtures preceding images, demands the infantile gesture that does not speak, of a craftsman capable of reclaiming, provoking, dissolving or annihilating this landscape of transparencies exhumed and drawn from the opacity of their material evidence. The infantile gesture that seeks to touch things through drawing, to un-margin them from their contour – periechon: that which includes without including – to separate them from their name.

It is necessary, therefore, before modeling these materials, to know how to induce in them a spontaneous alteration until one can mold with and through them the volume and the surface of their absence, deferred.

Marco Nicodemo

Renato Leotta born in 1982, in Turin, currently lives and works between Acireale and Turin. Renato Leotta's work stems from a reflection on the landscape, understood as the unfolding of time upon surfaces. Temporality is the subject of the work, and it takes shape through an observation of the elements that govern it: the sky, for example, and its relationship with things – the sea, plants, the wind, but also the body and memory. His works are acts of observation, and the subject of his practice can be traced back to the Mediterranean – a context understood as an entity that situates the artist's research within a critique or resistance to the rhythms of speed and image production.

Leotta's solo exhibitions include: Concertino, Castello di Rivoli, Italy (2023) and Ondina with the Turin philharmonic orchestra at Conservatorio Verdi, Turin (2023); Sensibilità, Le Quai, Monaco, France (2023); MACTE, Termoli, Italy (2022); Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin (2020); Galleria Fonti; Naples (2019 & 2015); Magazzino Italian Art, NY (2019); Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (2018); Madragoa, Lisbon (2017 & 2016), among others.

Group exhibitions include: Museum de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Portugal (2025); Bourse de Commerce - Pinault Collection, Paris (2024); Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy (2024); 17th Istanbul Biennial (2022), Bulgari Prize, MAXXI, Roma (2021); Fundación Santander, Madrid (2019); Gropius Bau, Berlin (2019); Palazzo Fortuny, Venezia (2018); MASP, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2018); Manifesta 12, Palermo (2018); Madre, Naples (2017) Le Galerie Centre d'Art Contemporain, Noisy-le Sec, France (2016); BOZAR, Bruxelles (2015), among others. Leotta is a co-founder of CRIPTA747, Turiner Khunstverein ? and Istituto Sicilia.