

Interview with José Molina. On show in Piacenza from October 17th.

Written on October 10th, 2015 by Alessandra Redaelli



José Molina. Sweet water. From the series **Beloved Earth**

On show from 17th October to 8th November 2015 at Galleria Biffi Arte di Piacenza, one of the most spectacular artists of our time sat down with us to reveal, among other things, that his curiosity and passion for the human being are anything but chance, rather the precise upshot of his psychology studies.

A.R. – Will you tell us something about yourself?

J. M – I was born Madrid. For twenty years I worked in communication: as a designer and illustrator I worked in advertising, on TV, in multimedia and collaborated with cartoons' creators. This was a long period in which I gathered experience, learned and listened. I also studied psychology for six years, and travelled. During a journey in the Amazon rainforest I met my present partner, Chiara. I followed my heart, and here I am, in Italy. I worked for a couple of years for an important branding agency, then I decided to go back to my roots and devote myself entirely to painting.

How did you approach art? What was the root cause?

I have drawn and painted since I was a child (when I was 4, the only way to have me stay quiet, was giving me some pencils). From the age of eleven I started attending various art schools, where for over ten years I studied drawing and painting. I often was the youngest in the classroom. I can't say whether there was a root cause. I had plenty of energy that I managed to channel into drawing, which was natural to me; it was my way of relating with reality. Other people use writing or music: I did and do that through colours and brushes.

What was the first work of art that elated you?

I was very lucky because I lived near the Prado Museum in Madrid. Though I was a very outgoing guy and had many friends, I felt at home and used to spend plenty of time there. There has not been one particular work of art that has struck me more than another; I cherished them all!

Is there any artist, of the present or the past, you feel akin to?

I am omnivorous, I read and observe everything, both past and present. I like cinema, but I also find science to be very charming. I feel akin to people who are immersed in life body and soul, to those who get their hands “dirty”. Talking about art, Goya, during and after the war, has always impressed me owing to his social and political commitment, his criticism of society. He was also a philosopher; one merely needs to read the captions of his works for confirmation.

Where do you draw inspiration for your collections?

I start with an idea, an insight and then I immediately make a sketch, my study is chock-full with them. But this is just the beginning. I work in terms of collections or, rather, projects. “Los Olvidados” (The Forgotten), for example, results from my history studies. Through my projects I want to tell one or more stories, there is always a project at the basis of my works. Beside painting, I write. Often words, others’ or mine, accompany my works. This wealth of means of expressions – writing, drawing, painting and now also sculpture – undoubtedly originates from my need to communicate. I withhold nothing.

What is, in your opinion, the ultimate task of art today?

Perhaps this question should be asked to the critics, to those who speak about art and study art, and not to those who make it. This is a very subjective issue. As far as I am concerned, in a broader sense, art means culture and to this word I ascribe the meaning of “cultivating”: art should feed, nurture, cultivate the human soul through the emotions it stirs, be they pleasant or disturbing. What I don’t really like today is the rather widespread habit of using art as a provocation for provocation’s sake, a provocation that does not touch the “provoked”, sometimes it is even welcomed by them! Personally I always seek a balance between the indeterminacy of freedom and the determinacy of responsibility.

What is your next project?

I have several projects. I am currently working on a project, now almost completed, called Beloved earth, it is a hymn to our planet and to nature. I am also working on a new project temporarily (who knows where it will take me...) named *Sins and Virtues*. I’d say there will be more sins than virtues ...