

The Art of Martínez Celaya, Enigmas to be Interpreted

MUSEO MARINO MARINI

By Elisabetta Berti

Inside an aviary stands a bronze boy in schoolboy clothes, in a pose of pure contrition: he looks like a prisoner, but if we look closely we see that his body is part of the cage itself. Another boy - this time the bronze is painted white - is standing wearing real cloth trousers, while he raises his arm in a hinted and therefore indefinite gesture. A deer seems to have just been captured, entangled in an iron wire trap and inserted into a metal structure, and a sentence by Eliot has been handwritten on its white fiberglass body which speaks of the precariousness of existence. The works of Enrique Martínez Celaya are enigmas, and they ask us to complete, with our free interpretation, the narrative to which they allude. Precisely for this reason it is entitled "Watching and Waiting. Enrique Martínez Celaya. Selected sculptures 2005-2023." The exhibition opened at the Museo Marino Marini and puts his sculptures and two paintings in dialogue with the works of the famous artist from Pistoia. The Secci Gallery is hosting a solo exhibition of the artist's paintings as well. "Watch and wait" is what the viewers are called upon to do by observing the polymorphic work of this Cuban artist; to take

all the time necessary for the work to become less hermetic than it appears at first glance. The curator Giorgio Verzotti explains: «For the artist, each of his works, whether paintings or sculptures, is the fragment of a narration that is never made explicit: it is the witness of an event, past or still in progress, which the observer is called to interpret, overcoming the impression of extraneousness and resistance». After all, Enrique Martínez Celaya's life itself is, in its kaleidoscopic being, a small enigma: after starting his artistic training as an apprentice at the age of 12, he graduated in Applied Physics and specialized in Quantum Electronics. He is the holder of several patents of laser devices. He is a true scientist,

but also an accomplished artist whose works have been exhibited by major institutions around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Martínez Celaya is the author of numerous books and founded an internationally recognized publishing house, Whale & Star Press, which publishes books on art, poetry, artistic practice, and critical theory. In addition to sculpture - in traditional and non-traditional materials - painting - the medium with which he made his debut in the art world - and writing, he has also experimented with photography and video, always investigating the relationship between man and the world. This is his first exhibition in Florence, an occasion that arouses in him «so much humility» he says, «all the artists who have left the greatest mark on me come from Florence».



- ◀ **One of Enrique Martínez Celaya's bronze sculptures that is exhibited in Museo Marino Marini in dialogue with the works by the artist from Pistoia**