



LOVE ME !

Curated by Giusy Caroppo

From 9 September to 14 October 2023

Inauguration: Saturday 9 September, from 11 am to 7 pm

GALLERIA GIAMPAOLO ABBONDIO
Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi 7 - Todi (PG)

Giampaolo Abbondio Art Gallery invites you to an exciting new thematic journey through the collection, amid hedonism and voyeurism, eroticism and self-determination.

And if Picasso stated that “Art is never chaste and if it were, it would not be Art,” in the **AMAMI (LOVE ME)** exhibition **curated by Giusy Caroppo**, nothing is chaste; indeed, everything is focused on images, both raw or glossy, that stress the consumption of bodies and the body leading to the pleasure of the senses and the gaze, which becomes conducive to seduction, and emotion if not irreverent, transgressive, extreme, amoral erotic attitudes.

Marina **Abramovič**, Nobuyoshi **Araki**, Matteo **Basilé**, Lisetta **Carmi**, **Franko B**, Robert **Gligorov**, Nan **Goldin**, Zhang **Huan**, Richard **Kern**, Oleg **Kulik**, David **Lachapelle**, Sara **Lorusso**, Luigi **Ontani**, Elena **Ovecina**, Sergio **Racanati**, Jan **Saudek**, Andres **Serrano**, Joel-Peter **Witkin**, Francesca **Woodman**, with unedited historical works or research, offer a range of crystallizations of snapshots or storytelling through images, for a cerebral, liminal eroticism, relegated to the imagination or entrusted to real, masculine and even phallic, fluid or feminine symbols.

The title of the **AMAMI (LOVE ME)** exhibition is an open invitation, inspired by the second edition, for **SUDDEN THOUGHTS** types, of the book of the same name illustrated and edited by Massimo Giacon and Tiziano Scarpa; a kind of legacy that Giampaolo Abbondio - as a publisher and author of the introduction - has intended to leave to his son so that he would “lead him to discover that it is right to seek out love in any manner whatsoever”.

And so, an exhibition has been structured that tells us of the multiple declinations of love, in carnal as well as mental terms, in accordance with an excursus constructed by dialogues and contrasts in the variegated collection. A journey among undisputed myths of body art and performance, among scabrous themes such as kinbaku bondage and voyeurism, iconographic universes in a delicate balance between beauty and grotesque, natural and artificial, bohemian sex

and female candor, spontaneity, suffering, the animal side of humanity, East versus West, documentary photography and new no wave aesthetics, shockvertising and aestheticizing taste, with the intention of rekindling the never dormant debates on freedom of expression in art and political correctness.

The works of art have been brought together in four rooms of the historic building that is the headquarters of the gallery, according to themes suggested by the emblematic titles of some of the works on display, which invite an increasingly intriguing proceeding: they range from the concept of “New Paradise” , a kind of meta-space of fantasy, illusion, desire and ambiguity, to “Les Liaisons Dangereuses,” a morbid world in which dangerous liaisons push toward consenting submission or winking self-selling, amidst a thicket of glances and an inventory of cheap meat “parts”; still further, a morganatic “Marriage” between man and animal, between abnormal and “normal”, is accomplished amid a jubilation of the senses echoed by an orgy of trappings. A slow perseverance in love, often beyond love, which leads to discovering that then, redemption from sin is not so close: in the last room, “Crucifixion, violence on women as on the abnormal, sacred and profane, chastity and fantasy, female-male duality and dictatorship of the phallus, close and open the circle of the “commandment” - LOVE ME - which is still alive and well, and contemporary.