





Under the Auspices of the Italian Embassy in Muscat

On the special occasion of the 50th National Day and Golden Jubilee of Oman

"Hope and Memories"





















# LUCIA OLIVA SOLO EXHIBITION

## 17 November 2020

## Art & Soul Gallery Water-Front

#### From 17 to 4 December 2020

















2020 has been a year with many difficulties, so that keeping hope alive is something we all need to work for and artists play a fundamental role in it. being like torchbearers of hope and beauty.

From this perspective here in Oman it is important to solemnly celebrate the Golden Jubilee, the 50th Anniversary of the Renaissance of the Sultanate.

"HOPE AND MEMORIES" is the homage by the Italian artist Lucia Oliva to this country, which she deeply loves as her second home.

The core of the exhibition are two peculiar celebrative artworks, based on a unique concept, consisting of sculptural solid canvases rich in movement as a support for the portrait of the late H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said and H.M. Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said.



#### "HOPE"

Sculptural canvas – high-relief – painting. Mixed media on canvas and marble. Cms. 210 x 200 - 2020

### "THE CONCEPT - 1

The artwork "Hope" shows up as a celebrative sculptural canvas with a distinctly innovative concept.

His Majesty's portrait is the focus of a sort of contemporary style draped tapestry that emphasizes the importance of the royal subject. This style plunges its roots into classical art and reaches its apex in the Baroque era, which boasts many pictorial and sculptural examples with high and low-reliefs.



Madonna della Provvidenza Brescia, Italy, Marble drapery XVIII century

Leo van Heil Gen. Cantelmo, Italy, XVII century

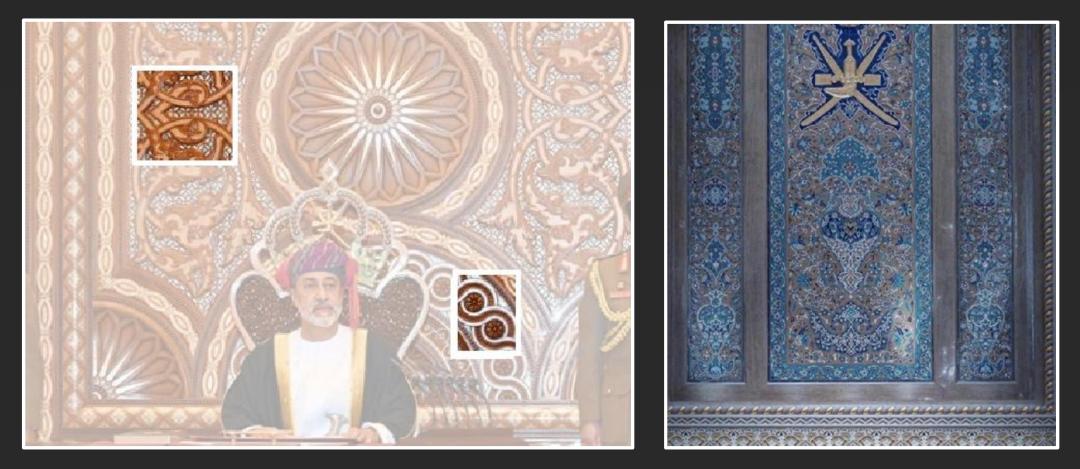


Palazzo Pitti Florence, Italy , XVII century

#### THE CONCEPT - 2

A quote from the Holy Quran, part of verse 59, Surat An Nisaa' completes the portrait.

Moreover, a few symbols and suggestions find place in it, both for the texture of the background as well as for its colours. The artist freely took inspiration from some engraved motifs on the wall behind the throne in Qasr Al Alam Palace and other royal halls, in shades of light blue and turquoise together with burgundy and purple, which recall the colours of the royal mussar.



## THE CONCEPT – 3

For some aspects, the artwork also evokes the ancient precious tradition of Arabian and Persian carpets.

Thus, "Hope" presents itself as a Lucia Oliva's personal re-interpretation and fusion of these various traditions, creating a bridge between western art and culture with Arabian ones.

The 24k gold, brass and copper leaf give light to the work and offer the viewer ever changing effects depending on the position of the light source: homage to the royal aura of the subject.

The structure of the artwork is slightly asymmetric to highlight the natural movement effect of the drapery. Stucco and other materials give solidity to the canvas and create bas-reliefs effects that recall the patterns, texture and thickness of brocades and damasks.

Where frequently 'putti' used to hold the drapery (both in frescos, paintings, sculptures and high or bas-reliefs), the Artist placed irregularly shaped slabs of recycled marble, transforming them into precious details: this as a small but significant symbol of her strong passion and commitment in environmental protection as a philosophy of life. Nature, to her, is a gift of God and we need to respect and protect it.

"HOPE" was conceived as a natural cross out of a recent Oliva's previous artwork ("FRIENDS OF ALL ENEMY TO NONE") portraing the late H.M. Sultan Qaboos, in which he is acting as if he were handing over the country to his successor, a sort of message of hope and continuity, a link between past and future and an invitation to keep going with hope and faith. Both the artworks express the same unique artistic concept created by the artist, to give them a special effect of lightness.



FRIENDS OF ALL ENEMY TO NONE Sculptural painting, bas-relief (acrylic, fabrics, paper, 24k gold, brass and silver leaf) on canvas Cm. 170 X 80 X 22 2020

#### FRIENDS OF ALL ENEMY TO NONE





The exhibition will offer the viewer the opportunity to admire other new artworks created during the current year as well as previous ones belonging to the recent past career of the artist in the Gulf, witnessing different moments and images where her sensitivity encountered the Omani and Arabic culture.

Lu ci Oliva-

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

The work of Lucia Oliva, eclectic contemporary artist, communicates through an intuitive and universal language, rich in astonishing scenic effects, meant to have both an emotional and a conceptual impact on the observer.

She is a self-taught artist, who grew up loving music, dance, sculpting, painting, literature and drama. After graduating in law and teaching for a few years at Genoa University, she decided to devote herself entirely to art. Also, she likes to write poems. After an early award-winning debut as a young painter, she went back to figurative arts in 2013, as a development of her long international career in the world of art as choreographer, dancer and event organiser.

"Sculpting with colour" on stone, metal, wood, canvas and other materials, Oliva creates subjects embodied in artworks rich in harmony and movement that highlight an idea of pure lightness.

Playing with mirrors and other accessories she recently invented her unique concept which creates a sort of contemporary "trompe l'oeil" effect, with original scenic set-ups that are a combination of sculpture, painting, installation and theatre: her peculiar interpretation of the anamorphosis phenomenon gives life to artworks that consist in a tangible side and an ethereal one, body and soul of the same entity.

Oliva's unique art has been granted an immediate and ever growing success in many solo, group exhibitions and art symposiums all around the world. Her works are owned by private collectors in Europe as well as in the UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, the Philippines and other countries.

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