

# *Andrea* **Fontanari** *The poetry of everyday reality*

by Matteo Chincarini

In an artistic landscape dominated by glossy images, digital filters and a constant pursuit of aesthetic perfection, Andrea Fontanari's work stands out for its sincere and direct view of everyday life. The young painter has revived the pleasure of direct observation, restoring value to an act that seemed to have been partly lost in the history of art: painting reality. After the advent of photography, many artists had in fact given up observing the world with the same desire for representation that had animated centuries of painting. Fontanari reverses this trend, and does so with a sensitivity capable of renewing contemporary figurative art.



PEOPLE, oil on canvas, 289 x 440 cm, 2023-2024. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano



GROUND OF A UNBROKEN HEART, oil on canvas, 182 x 120,5 cm, 2024. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano



RIDE FOR FREEDOM, oil on linen, 140 x 210 cm, 2025. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano

His research starts from the ordinary to reveal its exceptional nature. Everyday objects, domestic gestures, glimpses of real life. Far from the constructed poses and visual stereotypes of digital communication, Fontanari captures the unexpected, the spontaneous, the seemingly secondary detail which, when put on canvas, takes on universal meaning.

His canvases depict an authentic, fragile and intimate world, made up of stolen moments rather than staged scenes. A cup left on the table, a messy room, a face lost in thought that escapes external narration: these are images we all know, but which are rarely celebrated. Fontanari gives dignity to everyday life, conferring monumentality on what

usually slips under the gaze. He does so by choosing large formats, as if to declare that everyday life, with its small gestures and silences, deserves the same space and attention that was once reserved for great historical or mythological scenes.

His painting style is unmistakable. His rapid, disjointed and almost chaotic brushstrokes, when viewed up close, appear to be independent fragments, splashes of colour that do not seek immediate harmony. But when viewed from a distance, the eye recomposes the image and perceives a surprising visual truth. The reality that emerges is never photographic, but filtered through the painter's sensitivity: a truth that does not imitate but interprets. The sharp lights, often direct



(A)MOTION OF FREEDOM, oil on canvas, 205,5 x 154,5 cm, 2025. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano



DAYDREAM, oil on canvas, 259 x 190 cm, 2024. Private collection



A SWING FOR THE SKY, black pastel on paper (200g), 70 x 49,5 cm 2024. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano

and raw like the midday sun, give the subjects an aura of dramatic evidence. The dazzling colours, skilfully dosed, create vibrant atmospheres that convey not only the image but also the sensation of experiencing it.

In this sense, Fontanari is firmly part of the return to figurative art that has conquered contemporary art in recent years. However, this is not a stylistic revival or a mere exercise in representation. His painting is conceptual research, an interrogation of what is worth painting today. The artist does not choose noble subjects, nor does he succumb to traditional iconography or pure decorativeness. On the contrary, he selects unexpected details, glimpses that would remain invisible in other contexts. Thus, an empty chair or a wide-open window become opportunities to reflect on the passing of time, on



RAGAZZA CON GLI OCCHIALI, oil on linen, 50 x 70 cm, 2025. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano

the presences and absences that mark the human experience.

Among the recurring protagonists of his paintings is a discreet muse, a female figure always captured in her natural state. She never poses directly for the viewer, nor does she seek attention or impose herself as an idealised icon. She is often depicted engaged in her own activities, lost in thought, as if the artist were observing her with affection and respect from a necessary distance. She embodies a sense of truth that becomes a universal symbol, the portrait of everyday life that needs no artifice to be meaningful.

Fontanari's ability to capture the essence of human relationships and transform it into powerful images has found recognition not only in the art world



DOROTA, oil con canvas, 210 x 160 cm, 2024. Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano



TOGETHER WE PLAY, TOGETHER WE TRANSFORM,  
oil on linen, 120 x 86 cm, 2025, per Olympic Art Poster,  
© Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 e Triennale Milano

but also in wider circles. The artist was selected to create one of the official posters for the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. His work, entitled *Together we play, together we transform*, celebrates sport as an opportunity for encounter, respect and solidarity. Not just a competitive event, but a space in which humanity recognises itself as a community. The poster reflects the same approach that characterises his painting: restoring value to shared moments, to the collective acts that define our existence.

In an age where reality is constantly filtered and manipulated, Andrea Fontanari's art reminds us of the importance of direct vision, attention to detail and the value of simplicity.

His works take us back to the most authentic dimension of human experience: one that does not need to be dramatised to be true.



KEEPING THEM FOR ME, oil on canvas, 244 x 198 cm, 2024.  
Courtesy Boccanera Gallery Trento/Milano

With quick, luminous brushstrokes, colours that vibrate with energy, and subjects that belong to everyone's life, Fontanari offers a style of painting that speaks to the present and reaffirms the power of figurative art as a critical, poetic and necessary tool. In his work, the everyday becomes extraordinary and simple gestures are transformed into icons. It is in this tension that the strength of his language lies: a style of painting that looks at reality without artifice and, precisely for this reason, manages to touch the viewer deeply.

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