

ANSELM KIEFER

Walther von der Vogelweide - für Lia

Opening: Saturday 23 November 2013, 6 - 9 pm

Galleria Lia Rumma, Via Vannella Gaetani 12 – 80121 Naples

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10.30 am - 01.30 pm / 02.30 pm - 7 pm

"I think in images. Poems help me in this. They're like buoys on the sea. I swim towards them, from one to the next; and I'm lost mid-way when there are none around."

Anselm Kiefer, 2008

On 23 November 2013, Galleria Lia Rumma in Naples opens *Walther von der Vogelweide - für Lia*, an exhibition of works by Anselm Kiefer.

Anselm Kiefer's art is also made of words. Lots of them.

Those that often stand out in his creations are traces of an intense, indispensable interaction with the cultures of all places and with the poetic voices of all times. This is because, as he sees it, there are no pages that cannot be heard and that, even after centuries, cannot bring back to us the bliss of a memory or the carefree step of an amorous encounter.

In this exhibition, which marks the artist's return to Naples, the Minnesanger - *Walther von der Vogelweide* - and one of his most famous ballads - *Unter den Linden* - are inspiration for a tribute to Lia Rumma.

A medieval lyric poet who wrote in German, Walther (as he is commonly referred to by historians) was one of those who brought new life to the spirit and forms of courtly love in lyrical poetry. Shunning artifice and high-blown rhetoric, his poetry conveys images of real life, toning down both the bluster and the symbolism explored in early Minnesang.

Kiefer has clearly recognized these literary atmospheres as akin to his own and he has used them as the basis for his own story, and for the new series of works on show.

The exhibition opens with a group of books in which the irrepressible presence of flowers, on painted canvas pages, alludes to festive Nature, as celebrated by the poet. Similarly, two large paintings appear as the setting for the encounter eulogised by von der Vogelweide, which took place *unter den Linden* - in the shade of a lime tree - the tree most familiar and dearest to the Germanic spirit.

As in many of his landscapes, Kiefer chooses the point of view in such a way as to draw us into the work. In this case, we are invited to cross the moor and to go under the lime tree in order to take in all the beauty of the landscape and to participate in the joy of the encounter.

An encounter as successful and long-lasting as the one between Anselm Kiefer and Lia Rumma.

Anselm Kiefer was born in Donaueschingen, Germany, in 1945. He worked in Buchen, Germany, until 1993, when he moved to Barjac in France. Since 2007 he has lived and worked in Paris. His works are on display in the world's leading museums and are to be found in the most prestigious private collections. In October 2007, three of his works entered the Louvre collection. In 1999 he received the Praemium Imperiale Award from the Japan Art Foundation in Tokyo, and in 2008 he won the Peace Prize of the Frankfurt Book Fair, when it was awarded for the first time to an artist. In 2010, he was appointed to the chair of Création Artistique at the Collège de France.

Galleria Lia Rumma has devoted many exhibitions to his work. Since the first one, in Naples in 1992, the partnership has become ever stronger, reaching one of its highest moments with the creation of the Seven Heavenly Palaces, the permanent installation with which HangarBicocca opened in Milan in 2004.



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