

ADRIANA POLVERONI **The hands and the things**

Roberto Paolini was an "artist of doing": with his hands he created authentic masterpieces. Sometimes they were ingenious dishes, when talking about food was not a voguish habit yet, but food could still be an inventive gesture [...], and his creations attracted passionate connoisseurs from far beyond Santa Sofia, the small town where his restaurant was placed. Some other times they were jewels looking like wearable sculptures. All of them were elaborate, unpredictable, precious artworks. Unique works.

Paolini was skilled with his hands when he realized pieces of furniture as well. Today these artworks can be labeled as Design: a simple leg table is then a sculpture itself, revealing a precise reflection on inhabiting space.

But all had its origin in the ability of hands, a skill that, in the world of art, has been overshadowed by ideas.

But what a thrill to find an idea embodied in an object! In a glass patiently hand-worked, tormented on the surface with spatulas and knives, attacked by other materials, almost mistreated, like Pollock's technique of slamming his canvases to the ground and then letting the paint drip on them. Almost a challenge, an insult, towards something that obviously is loved: a material crumpled, bent, deformed, and then returned in a new form. The material, like a book without its pages, gives voice to this hand to hand combat between itself and the artist.

[...] Materials for Roberto Paolini were important, had to be respected but above all explored, in order to bring out their potential, the least obvious solutions that they held within them". And here, again, the beautiful "craftsmanship", the relationship between hands and things is back. A relationship sometimes tormented and marked by a tenacity that, in the case of Paolini, is nearly difficult to understand for how much his resolution strongly characterized his work with a sense of unavoidability.

"OMAGGIO A ROBERTO PAOLINI"

Testo di ADRIANA POLVERONI

In collaborazione con Archivio Paolini

12 maggio - 16 giugno 2015

Opening martedì 12 maggio ore 19.00

Galleria Bianconi, via Lecco 20 Milano