

MATTA

3 September – 14 December 2024

Palazzo Donà Brusa
Campo San Polo 2177, Venice

"I'm not an artist.

I'm somebody who tries to construct images that will once help us realize the essence of the verb 'to see'."

Roberto Matta

Tommaso Calabro is pleased to announce the extension of the exhibition **"Matta"** in his Venice gallery at Palazzo Donà Brusa in Campo San Polo until **December 14, 2024**. The show celebrates **Roberto Matta** (Santiago, Chile, 1911 – Civitavecchia, 2002), one of the most visionary artists of the twentieth century.

Described by Marcel Duchamp as **"the most profound painter of his generation"**, Matta was born in Santiago, Chile, but started out as an architect in Europe and worked with Le Corbusier himself. After meeting García Lorca, André Breton, Salvador Dalí and, later, Picasso while he was working on *Guernica*, Matta decided to devote himself to painting. Moving to New York in 1939, he joined the community of émigré Surrealists, including Max Ernst, Yves Tanguy, André Masson, and André Breton, and soon became a key figure in contemporary painting. Matta helped create a new concept of space within Surrealist painting, anticipating some innovations of Abstract Expressionism. He broke the conceptual and constructive principles of spatial representation, opening it up to cosmic explosions and subjective implosions, inhabited by floating organic forms with bright, often bold colors.

The **"Matta"** exhibition presents a series of **over twenty works**, including **canvases and works on paper**, created by the artist during his most creative and prolific years. These are works from his New York period (1939-1949), when Matta exhibited in the city's most important galleries—from the Julien Levy Gallery to the Pierre Matisse Gallery and Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century — and captivated artists such as Pollock, Rothko, Gorky, and Motherwell with the extreme automatism of his gesture. The exhibition also includes works from the 1950s, created in Rome and Milan, and, from 1954, in Paris, where the artist reached his stylistic maturity. During these years, Matta developed his vision of the "open cube" and created cycles of large canvases marked by a cosmological epic, where the evolution of species, the dreamlike universe of the mind, and the mutations of nature in the infinitely small and the infinitely large take shape.

TOMMASO CALABRO

After the major exhibitions dedicated to Leonor Fini, Stanislao Lepri, Tiger Tateishi, William Copley and Harold Stevenson, with this exhibition **Tommaso Calabro** continues to support the rediscovery and appreciation of artists associated with the Surrealist movement and the figure of Alexander Iolas.

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday – Saturday / 11 am – 7 pm

Monday / by appointment

PRESS REQUESTS

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INSTAGRAM

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