

Adelio Sarro – The soul of Colour

The personal journey of Adelio Sarro, a long-time friend, is a fascinating life story. Of humble origins, the Brazilian artist has gained recognition in prestigious museums all over the world. His universe, and its strong emotional impact, depicts characters with piercing, melancholic eyes and giant hands and feet, transforming them from outcasts into protagonists of depth. Sarro expresses his great sensitivity by choosing to give them a voice: they are workers of the Brazilian rural countryside, children of the favelas, vagabonds, mothers, and children; he presents them to us with caring solidarity as accomplices of mutual support and help to one another. The presence of animals and musical instruments echo their aspiration and hope for a better future. Sarro has the power to give meaning to this dream, transposing a tiring experience to a lighter dimension through the poetic themes of titles such as: Melody of the Earth, Cosmic Journey, Apprentice of the Universe, Magical Universe... We invite you to an extraordinary encounter... with the soul of color.

Gioachino e Suzanne Carenini

Adelio Sarro was born in 1950, in Andradina, a municipality in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. The son of peasants of Italian and Portuguese origin, he immediately showed a natural inclination for drawing. Humble work in the countryside, family commitments and various moves in search of a better life, mark his childhood. At the age of sixteen he worked alongside his father as a carpenter and bricklayer, and later found work at a printing house as a graphic designer of advertising signs. He never stopped producing sketches and drawings.

At the age of 22, Sarro visited the museum of the city of Brodowski (Brazil), and came into contact with the work of the painter Cândido Portinari. It fascinated him so much that he immediately decided to pursue a career as a painter. Following a self-taught path, with great effort and tenacity, he reached a pictorial level that finally satisfied him.

In 1973 the artist began to exhibit at Sunday fairs held in Piazza della Repubblica in the center of São Paulo, achieving a certain visibility. 1981 was the year of his "international baptism." He was invited to participate in six exhibitions in Japan, and later in Italy, Uruguay, Argentina, France, the United States of America, Portugal, Nicaragua, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Norway, and Singapore... By 2001, his Curriculum Vitae had already included 150 national and international exhibitions...

The artist's hand, forged as a carpenter and marble cutter, expresses itself in full potential in sculpture; Sarro achieves considerable notoriety with the great works executed for public and private institutions. The first, in 1984, is a large-format work for the Federation of Agriculture of the State of Goiás measuring two and a half meters by six meters.

It is significant to mention his presence in Switzerland in 1999 during the World Economic Forum in Davos. For the event, the artist presented a bronze sculpture and exhibited twelve huge paintings in which the figures of children stand out; an emblematic and auspicious image through which he wishes them all a more prosperous and bright future. In 2014, in Canton Ticino, Sarro's works were presented in dialogue with the sculptor Angelo Ferrari, at the multipurpose hall of Arbedo-Castione, receiving great admiration from all participants.

In 1998 Sarro inaugurated the Radiant Center of Culture in Vinhedo, São Paulo, a project conceived and designed by himself, a complex in which the Adelio Sarro Art Memorial is located. The aim is not only to hand over the legacy of his own work to posterity, but to promote the new generation of artists and art in general. Adelio Sarro is always active and on the move!