

z a z a ,

via gasparotto 4, milano, via posillipo 23, napoli

@zaza__milano

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*effe minelli
di dissidenti, esautorati e bohémien*

Effe Minelli
Di Dissidenti, Esautorati e Bohémien
31/01/25 - 31/03/25

zaza'

via Posillipo 23
Napoli

Two human half-figures dressed in drapes of hardened fabric hold looping gypsum vines that define silhouettes in space; a revolving fringed helix hangs diagonally from the ceiling in a frozen state; an inverted flagpole surmounted by a heart is precariously held up by knotted plaster braids. For his exhibition at Zaza' in Naples, the artist Effe Minelli presents a new body of sculptures made from plaster, found (plastic, textile, and metal) objects, and porcelain. Among the largest ever attempted in his career, these works stand as high points in the artist's formal and technical exploration, bringing together the diverse sculpting techniques and vocabularies he has practiced over the years while also exploring new avenues of research and visual experimentation.

Their subject matter derives from a broader inquiry into the role culture plays (or fails to play) as an agent of social change. Based in the periphery of Naples— it itself a periphery of Europe— Effe Minelli lives and works in a marginalized context where culture (if considered at all) is at best equated with tourism, and at worst, regarded as mere leisure. The artist rejects this state of affairs by looking back to a moment in local history when artists and intellectuals were at the forefront of social reform. Indeed, the two half-figures present in the show are tributes to Luisa Sanfelice and Eleonora Fonseca Pimentel, female martyrs of the Neapolitan revolution of 1799— a failed attempt to transform Naples from a repressive Bourbon kingdom into an Enlightened republic. After a brief period of success, the revolution was crushed, the Crown reinstated, and vast segments of the population, including intellectuals who championed the regime change, were executed by mass beheading.

In Naples, plaster and porcelain are symbolically charged materials. They are historically linked to the city's 'golden age' and evoke the Bourbon monarchy's unmatched success in the realm of artistic patronage. Through his porcelain and plaster assemblages, the artist critically recalls this distant past, when Naples was one of Europe's intellectual capitals, while the other found materials he uses reflect the economic decay of a city suffering in a stagnant economy.

Effe Minelli's sculptural work merges the repertoire of public sculpture, theatrical props, and decorative arts, often subverting the techniques traditionally used in each: glazed porcelain biscuit for performance props, plaster and plastic for large-scale figurative sculpture, unglazed porcelain biscuit and clay for plates and vases (which makes them often unusable). Similarly, the thematic registers of classical sculpture are systematically disrupted by the artist in a desperate quest for representing the present. In his exhibition, the idealized bodies of Greco-Roman busts, as well as their early modern derivatives, are displaced by mannequins found in dumpyards on the city's outer fringes. Dressed in rags, the mannequins do not hold scepters or royal insignia but instead carry flags and hearts—symbols of activism and care.

The exhibition unfolds across two spaces. Four works are displayed in the gallery space, while three are installed in a tufa stone vault accessed through the rear of the building by a sixteenth-century church-turned-crypt of a later monastery. This dual location echoes the duality of Effe Minelli's practice, in which the production of a contemporary imaginary is constantly haunted by a necrophiliac preservation of the past.











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effe minelli

Luisa
2025

Found plastic mannequin, aluminum pipe,
plaster, rope, lint
90 x 30 x 145 cm

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Lovers

2025

Wood, lint, rope, plaster

60 x 125 x 180 cm

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*Dissidenti, Esautorati e Bohémien
2025*

*Biscuit de porcelain, found lace pillow
35 x 25 x 15 cm*

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effe minelli

Face pic I

2025

Biscuit de porcelain, stainless steel wool

45 x 30 x 20 cm

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effe minelli

Eleonora

2025

Found plastic mannequin, aluminum pipe,
plaster, rope, lint

80 x 120 x 150 cm

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Frozen in time

2025

Aluminum pipe, plaster, rope

120 x 40 x 40 cm

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Face pic II

2025

Biscuit de porcelain, stainless steel wool

45 x 30 x 20 cm

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Letto

2025

Biscuit de porcelain

32 x 32 x 6 cm

Edition 1/3 + 2ap

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Scheletrini

2025

Biscuit de porcelain

32 x 32 x 6 cm

Edition 1/3 + 2ap

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Face pic III

2025

Biscuit de porcelain, stainless steel wool

45 x 40 x 15 cm

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Vaso

2025

Biscuit de porcelain

30 x 20 x 10 cm