

Luca Ceccherini
Il coltello nel noce

Opening: Saturday 04 October 2025, from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm
Until: 29 November 2025

Exhibition venue: Casa Di Marino - Via Monte di Dio, 9, 80132 - Naples
Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 11.00 am - 1.00 pm / 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Umberto Di Marino Gallery is pleased to announce *Il coltello nel noce*, the first solo exhibition by Luca Ceccherini, hosted in the spaces of Casa Di Marino. On this occasion, the Tuscan artist presents a new series of large-scale canvases in dialogue with works on mixed supports of reclaimed paper and wood-cardboard, where the material itself becomes an integral part of the image, evoking a dimension that recalls the very sedimentation of time.

The exhibition title is inspired by a Tuscan folktale of the same name and gathers the key elements of Ceccherini's practice: the symbolic power of images, rural and woodland settings, and aerial visions that recall battles and landscapes belonging to the Italian figurative imagination between the 13th and 15th centuries.

At the center of his painting lies the landscape, which is not represented in its entirety but rather broken down into its smallest fragments: trunks, roots, scattered foliage on the ground. These seemingly secondary details become totalities, forming the very texture of the vision. It is from this "inverted" landscape, built from the ground upward, that the protagonists of the works emerge: smugglers, farmers, brigands, and hunters—figures tied to the rural life of the Aretino and Casentino, the artist's native lands. They are both concrete presences and archetypes, echoing a collective imagination layered over time.

Ceccherini does not pursue a linear narrative, but rather the force of an impression: an inner and shared landscape, capable of evoking rather than recounting. His painting, dense and nebulous, merges figures and scenarios into images of an almost mythical quality, illuminated by fluorescent flashes and dark tones, like a popular tale suspended between fable and mystery. The works resist a univocal reading, instead inviting the viewer to observe closely, to discover slowly the details where medieval-inspired signs and symbols resurface.

In line with this approach, the exhibition does not include explanatory apparatuses. Visitors will be guided solely by a description of Carda, a mountain village in the municipality of Castel Focognano, taken from the book *Journey in Casentino. A Valley in the Mirror of European and American Culture (1791–1912)*. This fragment of historical memory becomes the key to entering Ceccherini's "modern Middle Ages": a pictorial universe constructed like a stage set, with vertical landscapes opening like theatrical backdrops, inhabited by ancient symbols, hunting and rural iconographies, and references to historical artworks and images.

With *Il coltello nel noce*, Luca Ceccherini does not look at history or the Middle Ages with a contemporary lens, but rather recognizes how certain aspects and customs of that distant world still retain a striking contemporaneity. His settings, though crossed by shadows and dark tones, preserve the imprint of collective memory: an affectionate bond with his native land and with the cultural framework that shaped his gaze. Thus, what emerges as the memory of the past transforms into a luminous, intimate, and nostalgic present, resurfacing from the depths of time and restoring its poetic trace.