

GALLERIA RICHTER

FINE ART

Press Release

Talking to Strangers at Night

Vera Portatadino

Opening Tuesday 26th May from 6:30pm

26th May 2026 – 11th September 2026

Galleria Richter Fine Art continues its exhibition program with a solo show by **Vera Portatadino** (Varese, 1984). The exhibition, titled *Talking to Strangers at Night*, opens on **Tuesday, May 26 from 6:30 pm** and will remain on view until September 11, 2026.

In the artist's research, a fundamental role is played by reflections arising from the reading of philosophical and poetic texts. Among her influences, the thought of the Spanish philosopher María Zambrano (1904–1991) stands out, for whom *poetic reason* is a way of seeing that encounters the other without possessing it, allowing it to appear in its truth.

«The clearing in the woods is a center one cannot always enter; it is observed from the threshold, and the appearance of certain animal tracks does not help one take that step. It is another realm, inhabited and guarded by a soul. A bird calls attention, inviting one to advance as far as its voice indicates. One listens. Then one encounters nothing, nothing but an untouched place that seems to have opened only in that instant and that will never again appear in the same way».

(María Zambrano, *Chiari del bosco (Claros del bosque)*, 1977.)

Talking to Strangers at Night takes shape as a reflection on alterity, understood as that which, even in the greatest proximity, remains ungraspable. The encounter with the image, as with the other, opens a space of attention, knowledge, and transformation. It is the time of evening, in the unfolding of summer: the air is warm, jasmine is in bloom, the sky is open.

The paintings on display have been created over the past two years and arise from a constellation of shared experiences — encounters, readings, moments of intimacy — which painting does not render as memory or narrative, but as a field of intensity.

Vera Portatadino's painting develops through a practice grounded in slowness, attentiveness, and emergence, giving form to images that elude univocal narratives. Her works construct environments in which bodies, landscapes, and gestures appear as transient and interconnected presences, while the pictorial surface unfolds as a palimpsest of layers and veils, where what appears is continually revealed and withdrawn. Vision is partial and diffuse, often mediated by distance, opacity, or suspension; the compositions, poised and unstable, bring light and darkness into dialogue.

Vera Portatadino (Varese, 1984, lives and works in Milan) studied in London at the Chelsea College of Art & Design and at NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan.

Among the solo exhibitions: *Something Filled Up My Heart with Nothing*, Otto Gallery, Bologna, 2022; *Anima Alzati Apriti*, Premio Treviglio, Bergamo, 2019; *SPAZI, MARS*, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, 2015.

Among the recent group exhibitions: *Attorno alla stella*, Nashira Gallery, Milan, 2025; *The Mountain Touch*, MUSE Museo delle Scienze, Trento, in collaboration with the Museo Nazionale della Montagna, Turin, curated by Andrea Lerda, 2024; *Pittura Italiana oggi*, curated by Damiano Gullí, La Triennale, Milan, 2023; *Medea*, curated by Demetrio Paperoni, ancient market of Siracusa, 2023; *Se il paesaggio è simbolico*, curated by Linda Carrara, Boccanera Gallery, Milan, 2023; *PUPILLE, Ci fioriscono gli occhi se ci guardiamo*, curated by Rita Selvaggio, Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno, Arezzo, 2022; *Botticelli. Il suo tempo e il nostro tempo*, curated by Denis Isaia, MART Museo di arte Moderna e contemporanea di Trento, 2021.

Awards: participant in the Premio Cairo, 2024; Premio Santa Croce, 2021; Premio Lissone, 2018; Premio Suzzara, 2016. Winner of the Premio Treviglio, 2018; finalist of the Premio Combat, 2010; finalist of the Premio San Fedele, 2010. **Works in public collections:** MART, Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto; “Ernesto and Teresa Della Torre” collection, Treviglio; “Gabinetto dei disegni e delle stampe” Santa Croce sull’Arno, Pisa; “Museo Maga” collection, Gallarate.

Vademecum:

Title: *Talking to Strangers at Night*

Artist: Vera Portatadino

Galleria Richter Fine Art, vicolo del Curato, 3 - Rome

Exhibition duration: 18th November 2025 – 16th January 2026

Opening hours: From Monday to Saturday, from 3pm to 7pm, or by appointment.

INFO AND CONTACTS

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