

## STEFANO BRESSANI WAITING FOR THE MOMENT

History, tradition, perseverance — but also willpower, discipline, and ideals. Words that define themselves with an almost lapidary force, regardless of the context to which they belong, yet within that very context they find new life, returning their full meaning to whoever invokes them.

The weight of history and tradition is crucial: one depends on the other, and their interplay is essential to the very definition of any society, past or present.

With “*Waiting for the Moment*,” the Pavia-born artist **Stefano Bressani**, an undisputed master of contemporary art and the creator of a singular, inimitable technique, pays homage to Italy’s grand history and its enduring traditions. Bressani lends his distinctive *modus operandi* — the process that made him renowned — in which a two-dimensional photographic image, deconstructed into carefully articulated planes of depth through perspective study and imaginative intuition, takes on volume and, consequently, life. It interacts with our world visually, tactilely, mnemonically, and experientially.

Alongside technique, Bressani brings deep research — beginning with materials. The artist starts from a polystyrene base on which he traces the image to be reimaged, shaping it with a hypnotic precision using tools he designed himself. Then comes the fabric — the true essence of his work — with which he constructs perspective, light and shadow, and the lifelike vitality of the image that has earned him international acclaim. Bressani manipulates fabric as a painter would pigment, drawing on its cut, weave, and texture to interpret how light falls upon surfaces — because even painting, without light, is nothing.

Thus rigor and perseverance, patience and knowledge, once again govern the nature of the work. A small but telling note: Bressani does not work with new, industrial fabrics bought by the meter. He seeks out, carefully and sparingly, *used and lived-in textiles* — garments that carry emotional memory. It is within this genesis that the added value of his art lies: each of his works retains an almost palpable vital rhythm, resonating with those who behold it. This familiarity of experience — paradoxically — is already present within the material itself.

There is also a narrative intent that cannot be set aside. The role of each regiment — and particularly that of the **185th Paratroopers Reconnaissance Target Acquisition Regiment “Folgore”** — and its traditions, have become strengthened in the collective imagination, both through heroic deeds and through their enduring presence as a pillar of society: a symbol of protection in crisis, and a steadfast reference in peace. Always guided by discipline infused with heart and courage.

In many ways, these same ideals mirror those of an artist who believes in his mission as an emblem of the society he represents — one called to see beyond the limits of his own time, to interpret what *is* with sincerity and precision, and, when possible, to suggest a path toward a better collective future. That, after all, is one of art’s highest purposes.

Bressani fully embraces this vision. He has shaped his own path — a story — through ideas, sacrifice, and devotion, supported by those close to him and guided by a continual striving toward perfection — his *tradition*.

“*Waiting for the Moment*” magnifies, more than ever, the essence of *doing* — the difficulties, the knowledge, and the integrity that emerge from authentic action. Never self-referential or complacent, these gestures recover pride and meaning through the very act of being true to oneself and one’s convictions — aware of placing one’s life in service of belief.

For this reason, the artist found no great distance or difficulty in creating the work: he felt it was his own from the very beginning. The artistic translation, while complex, required complete immersion in the world he sought to portray.

The narrative context becomes central here: to interpret an iconic image of a special forces soldier — newly airdropped, blending into an unknown and at times hostile environment — means first understanding the soldier's state of mind and the immediacy of his mission. That comprehension must then be translated, made tangible, through the calibrated use of fabric, texture, and light to give credibility to the scene.

Bressani meets this challenge by infusing the paratrooper's environment with his celebrated *total black maliumbas* vision — a creative fusion that unites man, nature, and art in seamless coexistence.

His unmistakable signature arises from a nature rooted in dream and harmony — one that merges pure aesthetics and art history with the raw, real dimension of field operation. Essential to the Regiment's mission, this fusion celebrates both the precision of action and the poetry of creation.

Bressani recalls how, when invited to create what is, in essence, a portrait of all the valorous members of the 185th, he chose an image that captured the intensity and logic of the moment — a photograph that reignited in him the same *symbiotic connection with the present instant*. "I believe," he notes, "that the obsessive attention to detail in each of my works mirrors the meticulous precision with which this special regiment operates to ensure our safety."

**"Vidēre nec vidēri"** — *to see without being seen.*

Guided by the motto of the **185th Paratroopers Reconnaissance Target Acquisition Regiment "Folgore,"** Special Forces unit of the Italian Army, **Stefano Bressani** offers his deeply personal tribute — as both man and artist — to every one of its courageous soldiers, in full awareness of the great honor bestowed upon him.

*Francesco Mutti*

**"Waiting for the Moment"**

sculpture and clothing fabrics

100 x 100 x 8 cm, 2025