

HYPER HEROES

From The Deepest Web World Space

STEFANO BRESSANI

May 9 – June 9, 2024

MA-EC Gallery

Welcome to the magical universe of Stefano Bressani—or, as he himself would say, “welcome to the planet of fabrics.” Bressani, a master of contemporary art, employs a unique expressive technique in the vast panorama of the artistic world.

Every scrap of fabric for him is a brushstroke handled with precision akin to surgery—an ability that manifests in the clean planes that shape his figures. Through the skillful joining of textiles on a very lightweight support, the two-dimensional transforms into three-dimensional, while light dances across the forms, sculpting them in a play of chiaroscuro.

When moving from a general view of his works to observing individual details—the portions that compose a larger picture—one notices a “magical” transition from figurative to abstract. Rows of life, fields of wheat, and other images emerge, suggested by imagination and the visual and memory repertoire of each observer, thanks to chiaroscuro and the varied textures and qualities of the fabrics, combined according to deliberate expressive choices. It is reminiscent of double-reflection figures: images that, when tilted, reveal changing and moving visuals.

This is Stefano Bressani’s “planet of fabrics,” where every piece finds its place in a universe of colors and shapes. Among the many elements in the artist’s poetics, one stands out, particularly relevant to today’s narrative: the “nail,” a symbol that interrupts surfaces, directing our attention toward a deeper message.

More than technique, color, or form, it is the concepts emerging from his works that demand attention—concepts that challenge time and space, exploring ecology, creative reuse against fast fashion, and the darkness lurking in the web. In an era overwhelmed by a flood of information, Bressani’s art invites reflection on this darkness and the speed to which we are forced to adapt in daily life, often pushing the limits of human endurance. The artist wields irony as a tool to provoke thought: his art may be called “pop” (from “popular”), but it is no less conceptual.

In Bressani’s poetics, opposites attract; antitheses walk hand in hand: figurative and abstract, popular and conceptual. His world is one of fabrics and softness, a realm of color and magic that does not shy away from confronting the harsh realities surrounding us. Here, the superheroes of his childhood—and ours—take on a new, “deformed” form inspired by the *chibi* tradition of Japanese manga: large eyes, oversized heads, expressions both sweet and mischievous, transformations to which the “image culture” sometimes even compels us.

Thus, the “super” becomes “hyper,” a twist that transforms superheroes into eternally young figures, trapped in a reality very different from the narratives they originally came from, where good always triumphed over evil. Behind these seemingly playful forms lies a profound narrative, a story that unfolds lightly without burdening the viewer, inviting reflection and engagement on multiple levels depending on one’s natural inclination and the momentary impression at the time of viewing.

Bressani’s works inevitably capture the gaze, first tempting the sense of touch, then stimulating all the senses. Every detail is meticulously curated, creating a multisensory experience that transcends mere observation.

Among the works on display, one stands out for its uniqueness: **“FLASH,”** located behind us. This enigmatic character, living at hyper-speed, is paradoxically the only Bressani creation that has remained behind in time, not rejuvenated—a singularity prompting reflection on our relationship with temporality.

I invite you to immerse yourself in Stefano Bressani’s unique universe, to be carried away by his works, and, if you wish, to reflect on the profound themes they evoke. Through color, form, and texture, the artist invites us to see the world with new eyes, to explore the complexity of modern life, and to evaluate the system in which we live with greater awareness. Prepare for an emotional journey, where each artwork is a piece of a larger puzzle, an invitation to explore the depths of our daily existence.

Welcome to the Hyper Heroes universe

Elisabetta Roncati