

10 exhibitions to see this week in Italy

Painting, drawing, sculpture and ceramics, as well as visual poetry and video installations: our selection of appointments

By Silvia Airoidi – June 10, 2023

This week's exhibition agenda opens to contemporary art, to highlight some of its different declensions and themes.

Among this month's exhibitions there is one dedicated to an artist who appropriates the architectural forms and national symbols that structure dominant narratives of power and history in order to transfigure and transform them; their sculptures give a new direction to the symbolic meaning of objects.



3 KIYAN WILLIAMS. A PAST THAT IS FUTURE TENSE, MILAN

Peres Projects is dedicating to Kiyon Williams a solo exhibition, the first one in the Milan gallery spaces, featuring a new series of sculptures by the American artist.

Williams appropriates the architectural forms and national symbols that structure dominant narratives of history and power to transform them, giving the lives of objects, reviving subterranean and obscured meanings. Their new works blend together gypsum plaster, chrome, and earth, expanding a visual language of ruination that collapses linear time.

In "A Past That Is Future Tense", the artist remixes structures and symbols that uphold the empire. For instance, they modify columns from the Corinthian and Doric orders, pillars that support government buildings; and that are said to represent idealized notions of EuroWestern, cisgender bodies.

And again, the series "Fried and Suspended Flag (2023)" addresses national flags as symbols of power, speaking back to the ideologies enshrined in and embodied by the American flag by refusing to comply with a symbol. The works experience simultaneous deconstruction and collective re-construction of meaning. These were made in a participatory performance, in which Williams invited the public to season, batter and deep-fry a collection of American flags, imbuing the emblem with new meaning. Meanwhile in their work the focus is in questions of belonging, practices of community-building and the shared experience of care. These are artistic practices, capable of imparting a new direction to the symbolic meaning of objects. Indeed, the American artist triggers a temporal collapse of past, present, and future, exploring the ways in which the symbolic meaning of objects is accrued over time, but also attesting to how meaning can shift, challenge, and change.

Through July 14.