

# Spontaneous realism

THE WONDERFUL CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS BY VOKA ARE COMING TO THE CONRAD ALGARVE FROM SEPTEMBER 10 COURTESY OF ARTCATTO

Austrian-born artist Voka has developed his own stylistic brand of working, entitled 'Spontaneous Realism'. Be it his cityscapes, portraits of famous people or sportsmen in action, his art is dynamic with vital and broad brushstrokes, a signature style he applies to all his subject matter. Full of life, humour and joy, one cannot help but smile when looking at a Voka piece. His artwork radiates energy and unbridled passion for painting.

Voka started his career modestly as a teenager, exhibiting his work in a local bank. His drive and dedication to his art caught the attention of Austrian billionaire Frank Stronach, who began seriously collecting the artist's work. Others followed, and now Voka has representation in galleries all over the world.

As an artist, Voka looked at all the great masters; he adored the rich palette of Van Gogh and, as an Austrian, he could not escape the powerful expressionism of Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele. However, he wanted to combine the raw quality of these distorted visions with his own expressive realism. Voka wants his viewer to be enchanted and not disturbed by the work; he creates primary colours to delight the senses, whereby the figure or the scene is representational but executed in a 'pop' style, free of naturalism but rich and alive with pure colour.

Voka's 'Spontaneous Realism' means that he works quickly in acrylic – the fast-drying paint allows the artist to work up the canvases



quickly. The Austrian produces a riot of colour, striking and glorious, with a palette that ranges from blues, greens and reds. His portraits of notable people capture the essence of their personality, with nuances of smiles and subtle glints in the eye.

With Voka's sporting images, his interest is much more focused on the action, the moment of mid-swing, be it golf or a tennis stroke. Here, the artist's attention is in the composition, the burst of energy transmitted by the physical action that creates a burst of colour, with the background forming an abstraction in order to highlight the central activity. Voka may have a love affair with action and people, but he takes his inspiration from the natural world.

The paintings are produced quickly but stem from moments of reflection and serenity. For Voka, it is all about the contrast

between tranquility and the physical power of painting, which is dramatic and forceful. He is an artist who loves the gesture and who adores the mark-making, producing strident colours and a stylistic exuberance. Not many artists can compare to Voka: his simple use of name belies the energy of production, an expansive manner that gives him free rein to explore his own brand of 'Spontaneous Realism'. This term reflects the innate and almost instinctive nature of the process; it gives him the opportunity to explore all the possibilities that his painterly style allows, the 'happy accidents', the drips and the blocks of pure colour.

Self-confident and self-assured, Voka is a dedicated artist who has learnt from the great masters of the past. He paints from the heart and captures the soul of his subjects in a remarkable and unforgettable way. The vistas

of towns and cities are perhaps handled more delicately, but they are very much Voka in style, and sensitively produced to capture the flavour of the scene in a delightful manner. ■

## ArtCatto

GALERIA DE ARTE | ART GALLERY

ARTCATTO IS DELIGHTED TO PRESENT VOKA AND HIS PAINTINGS AT THE CONRAD ALGARVE FROM SEPTEMBER 10. GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10AM TO 6PM, SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT

AVENIDA JOSÉ DA COSTA MEALHA Nº 43, 8100-500 LOULÉ

TEL: +00 351 289 419 447

INFO@ARTCATTO.COM / WWW.ARTCATTO.COM