

# Albumarte FLASH! Delphine Valli | CLIMAX

A cura di / curated by **Claudio Libero Pisano**

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When faced with works by Delphine Valli, the viewer can find immediate references to their context and to the relationship with architecture, which is an integral part of her poetics. Indeed, that is precisely the shift of attention suggested by her art interventions; to direct one's sights on unconventional viewpoints and angles, on a different vision, until the space no longer matters. The artist seeks for something that overcomes dimension. Reality is there for all to see, but Delphine's work wants to rewrite it. Her environments are sectioned and delimited by walls that link and unite instead of separating. Her works create connections. They don't change the space but rather formally redesign it, leaving the viewer with a question: are you satisfied with what you have under your eyes or can you aspire to a different interpretation of what you see?

Artists know well that the space of AlbumArte in Rome shows a particular conformation, having many irregular architectural elements that make it a very characteristic place. In her ambition, Delphine Valli wants to question the richness and peculiarity of the gallery, using the tools that are distinctive of her artistic poetics. She does that by employing slender and metallic geometric shapes and wall paintings which are the basis of a series of site-specific works capable of activating an unexpected dialogue with the whole exhibition space. The works interact and complement each other in the encounter with the solidity of the existing architecture, forming an atypical relation. The interventions are characterized by soft and apparently inconsistent shapes, which offer a different look on pre-established forms, suggesting a way out of that which is already defined. In this path which is deliberately fluctuating, the focus is on the value of emptiness, understood as potential and never as a lack. In this deliberate intention to demolish perceptive certainties, the metallic shapes and the wall paintings, despite their lightness, hold the strength of a baroque tabernacle in a Romanesque refectory. Delphine's powerful ambition has some antique prerogatives, her desire to manipulate space through all art forms holds a seventeenth-century referent. Yet the artist is anchored to her time, when the execution becomes thoughtful and the horror vacui is replaced by a nothingness that is conscious and calculated. *Sketch with fire, and execute with phlegm*, it was endorsed in the neoclassical era. The reason behind creation remains a crucial factor in the formal structure of Delphine Valli's work. In the setting of AlbumArte, everything seems to have a centrifugal movement: dozens of different opportunities develop from a nucleus that generates the movement. On the contrary, the artist creates a centripetal black hole in one single work that encompasses and unites everything else. A shrine made of metal and glass that contains a series of paintings on cardboard, singular and independent works that find their meanings in a collective reading.

The active participation of the spectator is vital for the completion of her works, whose engagement isn't limited to observation but has a fundamental role in the final design of the works' poetics, whilst the artist provides information and suggestions. CLIMAX provides multiple readings and meanings, added to each other. A geometric shape may serve different understandings: if one is willing to rethink the point of view, it can become a driving force for different perceptive strategies. The ambiguous and skewed geometry of Delphine Valli's installations produces a new relationship with perception, one in which the ordinary can become extraordinary.

If it is decided to follow the path defined by the metallic module suggested by the artist, once the journey has begun, there is no way back. The redesigning of an alternative orientation in space will lead to redesign the whole architecture. Despite its beauty, despite the symbolism that surrounds it, the Moon is just one of many celestial bodies that make up our solar system. Delphine Valli makes us shift our gaze from what we are used to seeing.

***Claudio Libero Pisano***