

Vino Vero Venezia

presents

VETRINA#14

a project curated by Mara Sartore

Isabella Staino

Tarot / Tarocchi – What the Caterpillar Calls the End, the Master Calls a Butterfly

June 26 2025 – October 26, 2025

Opening June 25 at 6:30pm

For **Vetrina#14**, Vino Vero has invited **Isabella Staino** (Florence, 1977), a visual artist who explores the tension of the feminine, the symbolic resonance of the animal world, and the power of the dreamlike. Her work stands out for its intense and deeply personal use of colour, her painting often taking the form of narrative, in a continuous dialogue with literature, memory, and vision. The artist unveils a new series of works on paper inspired by a personal tarot reading. For many years, due to a progressive loss of eye-sight, Isabella Staino has been painting with the aid of video magnifiers – devices normally used for reading, which she has adapted for her artistic practice. This tool enables her to alternate between a broader view and a focus on details, creating a richly layered pictorial language, where her visual limitation is transformed into a perceptual and narrative experience. The resulting pieces were conceived and created especially for Vetrina.

"Vetrina" is a series of exhibitions curated by **Mara Sartore** for **Vino Vero**, in collaboration with Lightbox. This art project launched its second cycle of presentations last year, February 2024. After exploring the broad theme of nature through the site-specific works of the first nine invited artists, the focus has shifted to the theme of activism. This phase exclusively involves female artists, bold and provocative in different ways, who have always used their art to foster constructive reflections on the contemporary world. In 2024, Vetrina hosted the work of three female artists — Loredana Longo, Stefania Galeati, and Paula Valero — who share strong personalities but express themselves through very different artistic paths. The 2025 exhibition program was inaugurated with "Night Eyes" by Mariana Hahn, on view until June 22. The challenge is to present works of art in a limited space and in direct contact with the public, where **the Vetrina becomes an integral part of the artwork itself, rather than just a place for exhibiting goods.**

Isabella Staino (Florence, 1977) lives and works in Livorno. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, where she studied painting under Professor Gustavo Giulietti, she has developed a distinctive pictorial language that weaves together symbolic, mythological, and narrative elements. Her work pays particular attention to themes of femininity, nature, and the dreamlike imagination. Over the course of her career, she has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Italy and abroad, including: "Capoluogo onirico" (Rome, 2002), "A perdita d'occhio" (Teatro Verdi, Pisa, 2006), "Pensare per colori" (Tour de Babel, Paris, 2014), "Dévoilé" (Chapelle Saint-Jean, La Garde-Freinet, 2015), "Infiniti terrestri dèi" (Fondazione Carlo Levi, Rome, 2017), "Lighea" (former Church of San Pietro in Atrio, Como, 2017), and "Animanti" (Biblioteca dei Bottini dell'Olio, Livorno, 2021). In 2013, she illustrated "Isabella e l'ombra", an unpublished short story by Antonio Tabucchi inspired by her painting. The book was published by Vittoria Iguazu Editore and presented at various venues, including the Italian Cultural Institutes of Hamburg and Lisbon. She has also collaborated with Sergio Staino and Adriano Sofri on illustrated volumes published by Einaudi and Coconino Press. Since 2015, she has been a contributing member of the historic Gruppo Labronico.

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