

Luciano Ventrone

13 Apr — 14 May 2018 at the Pontone Gallery in London, United Kingdom

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Luciano Ventrone. Courtesy of Pontone Gallery

Born in 1942, Luciano Ventrone lives and works in his native Italy. A highly successful painter, with an impressive CV of international exhibitions, his work is collected worldwide. Pontone Gallery is proud to present this exceptional collection of compelling still-life paintings.

The artist effects a forensic examination and meticulous rendering of the fruit and flowers which form his subject. Fastidiously arranged and carefully lit, he reveals the simple, everyday beauty of cherry, grape, lemon and rose. He lavishes his attention on describing rich and subtle colour and texture, articulated by a masterful representation of light. These paintings are bravura acts of technical accomplishment, which echo those of Caravaggio and the great Dutch still-life painters: Andreas Bosschaert and Jan Davidz de Heem.

Ventrone’s pictures strive to locate the essence of his subject through the discipline of technique, artfully-structured composition and exclusive focus. At the same time he makes images of succulent, mouth-watering materiality, almost hyper-real in their insistent pictorial immediacy. Ideas of control and appetite interplay: we are caught between discipline and desire, our hunger provoked, all too aware that we are viewing a vividly realistic illusion.

The very act of representation points to the fact that the actual is absent. These images preserve and celebrate the object of desire, at the instant when it might be at its most desirable. A certain romantic melancholy accompanies Ventrone’s skilful iterations. Well aware that such forms decay and their ripe appeal is transitory, the painter fixes them in an ideal state; they are archetypes of unattainable perfection.

In his capturing of a moment, an interlude of stillness and calm, the artist reveals the tension between the real and unreal and our wish to make tangible that which eludes us.

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📷 An example of Luciano Ventrone's work; Ventrone Impertinente 2013-17 60 x 70 cm (23.75" x 27.5") Oil and mixed media on linen

The fantastic paintings of Luciano Ventrone at Han Art in Westmount

👤 [Peter Kerr](https://themontrealeronline.com/author/peterkerr/) (<https://themontrealeronline.com/author/peterkerr/>) 🕒 June 26, 2019 👁 5215

Luciano Ventrone's paintings are more than eye-catching; the brilliance of their colour is arresting. They literally stop you in your tracks. Andrew Liu and Chloe Ng of Han Art have an exhibition of Ventrone's paintings in their Westmount gallery, and I had an opportunity to speak with Miranda Gibilisco, Ventrone's wife and spokesperson. Miranda also assists the artist as a photographer, taking the photos that he uses as a reference for his paintings.

When seeing Ventrone's paintings – whether a still life or nude model, you are struck simultaneously with the fine detail and the brilliance of the colours. I assumed that each painting must take an enormous amount of time to complete, and Miranda graciously conceded that; "Yes – this is the first question that everyone asks. And yes again, they do take a long time to complete."



Gallery owner and artist Andrew Liu with his wife and gallery manager Chloe Ng (right) and the artist's wife, Miranda Gibilisco (centre)

Continuing, Miranda explains; "Luciano paints very quickly, having developed his technique over many decades. He started painting when he was 18, and now he's 77. Because the paintings have to dry before additional colours can be added, he works on five or six paintings at a time – allowing drying time before applying the next set of colours."

Miranda explained that her husband's paintings can be described as natural, because he uses all the colours of the world. Ventrone is fascinated by colour, and whenever they visit an art supply store, she knows that she is for a long wait – that Luciano will spend hours buying paint. "He doesn't mix paint colours on a pallet, rather he uses tube after tube of undiluted colour, using brushes that are as fine as a woman's eyeliner make-up brush."

"He begins with one of my photographs, and projects it on a canvas. He uses a pencil, then coloured pencils, then watercolours, and then acrylic paint on top of the watercolours. He'll apply a transparent fixative before going to the next step of adding oil paints – all the while with the tiny brushes. This layering gives depth and intensity to the colours of the paintings."

It's the tiny brush strokes, using pure colours in layers that give the brilliance to Ventrone's paintings. He paints in the style of Caravaggio. Ventrone's career was given a boost when the famous Italian art critic Frederico Zeri visited Miranda and Luciano. He was so impressed with Ventrone's works, that he asked the artist if he would paint a bowl of fruit for him – in the style of Caravaggio. Ventrone fulfilled the critic's commission, with a twist. The fruits he painted in the bowl were not available in Italy during Caravaggio's lifetime. The plaudits from Zeri garnered international recognition for the artist.

The exhibition at Han Art is an opportunity to see and indeed – experience an array of truly unique and magnificent works of art. Sales are going well – as collectors recognize that this is also an opportunity to purchase a truly unique work of art. *Luciano Ventrone – Eternal Realm of Vision* continues until July 20.

Han Art is located at 4209 rue Ste-Catherine West, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 1P6. 514-876-9278.
www.hanartgallery.com (<http://www.hanartgallery.com>)

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