

[English 🇬🇧]

Alessandro Montalbano

Steel polychromy



This series of "Steel Polychromy" is located halfway between the everyday object and the work of art, between design and sculpture. The hectic rhythm of the colors makes the piece vibrate and explode its form. The evocation of my native Sicily and its traditional ceramics was obvious and each sculpture suggests in its own way an image, an impression of this exuberant and inspiring island ... I make the sculptures in welded steel, then, after a layer of powder coated paint, I paint the pieces according to what the shape of the sculpture evokes, its rhythm. And finally, the sculptures are varnished. This final glossy varnish brings an unbelievable "ceramic" aspect, as well as great resistance to the piece.

Evoking my native Sicily and its traditional ceramics was a natural choice, and each sculpture in its own way suggests a buried memory, an image, an impression of this fertile and inspiring island... This very first series of sculptures, created in 2021, is inspired by memories of Sicily, an island whose culture, art, architecture, language, and cuisine are a vast blend of all the peoples who have inhabited it : Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Spanish... My works, too, are the fruit of this blend of cultures, this melting pot. The colors of the Mediterranean basin, the sea, the vegetation are present in each of these pieces and invite memories of travel, reminiscences of the past between nature, culture and a whole common heritage, an inexhaustible source of inspiration for millennia.

Starting from the lines of a cup or a vase, the sculptures very often borrow the forms of flowers, of blossoming corollas evoking a plant and floral world, colorful and dreamlike... Nature, as the ultimate creator, dazzles me with the infinite richness of its palette of colors and shapes, and the flowers, like living sculptures, have come to impose their presence in the rigidity and coldness of the metal that I use. These pieces evoke the living but ephemeral sculptures that are flowers, and through my work in welded steel, I make them immortal, eternal. Conversely, the curves and roundness of the forms of Nature that are petals and corollas, bring fluidity, rhythm and lightness to the rigid and sharp steel that I work.

