

Hyperrealism

magazine





Michael Weiss

www.michael-weiss-art.com



*“Himbeertrieb”
Acrylic on canvas, 15 x 10 cm*

The naturalistic portraits of Michael Weiss



“Artichoke”
Watercolor on paper,
14 x 23 cm

Giving a personality to the nature, portraying trees like people... This is what the Italian painter **Francesco Lojacono** did in the second half of the XIX century. Considered the most important Sicilian landscape artist, he was the first painter to use a photographic reference for his paintings, in the same way as contemporary realists. This allowed him to create wonderful realistic landscapes and to study in great detail his favorite subject: **trees**.

Another important thing for his art was definitely the light: the Sicilian burning sun invades the whole scene, its bright and blinding light, with its deep yellows, contrasts with the rare pale shadowy areas as stains on the barren and thirsty land.

A couple of hundred years later, in the Hyperrealism era, the German painter **Michael Weiß** creates outstanding tree paintings so detailed they look like true photographs. But it doesn't end with a photographic representation. He is able to portray them so meticulously, giving each of them a uniqueness: in fact you can well distinguish each portrayed tree, as if they really have a soul that Weiß ably captures with his high artistic and technical talent.

Weiß handles trees like people by putting them at the center of the scene, focusing on their close-up, just as a painter usually does with a face, by capturing particular expressions and characteristics of the portrayed person to highlight his or her personality. In fact, the paintings of Michael Weiß look not like simple landscapes but they can be defined as portraits, portraits of trees, trees that are in pose like models in the middle of a nice landscape around just as a frame. In Weiß' paintings the light is focused on the chosen tree, while the background is purposely darkened and vague. He puts his tree "on stage", like it was an actor on the stage of a theatre ready to tell his own particular and unique story. This view of nature is so poetic that it makes us ask ourselves what could the tree tell us if it had the possibility to speak with us, how many eras he's seen, what it's been through... It's the mysterious and mystic charme of the old trees and Michael Weiß has definitely caught it in painting.

“Ulivi Saraceni” by Francesco Lo Jacono©, oil on canvas



“I suppose one could say a portrait
can be treated like a micro-landscape.
Perhaps I even subconsciously do.”

- Michael Weiss -

*“Kopfbuche III”
Acrylic on canvas,
30 x 24 cm*



*"Love Triangle: Sabrina & Markus" (dyptich)
Oil on panel, 30 x 23 cm each*



