From 12 to 15 July, the Embassy of Italy in Abuja (Nigeria) is organizing the pictorial exhibition “Luigi Ballarin. Colors of noble cultures”, curated by Beste Gürsu, by the Venetian master Luigi Ballarin.

**"Colors of noble cultures", the new exhibition by the Italian Embassy in Nigeria with the works of the Venetian master Luigi Ballarin (Abuja, 12-15 July 2023).**

*Ballarin has tried with this new artistic project to travel a journey that starts from Northern Nigeria to land in the capital, Abuja. The result that catches the eye is the harmony of the whole, of the color scheme dedicated to Africa and the use of colors with tones that highlight the entire artistic message.*

**From the 12th to the 15th of July** the **Embassy of Italy in Abuja (Nigeria)** will inaugurate (at 6 pm) the pictorial exhibition ***“Luigi Ballarin. Colors of noble cultures”***, curated by Beste Gürsu, by the Venetian master **Luigi Ballarin**. About 15 works are on display, with the noble equine as the absolute protagonist, including canvases with acrylic and enamel. It can be visited at the **Fraser Suites Hotel Abuja**, with free admission, from the 12th to the 15th of July from 10:00 to 18:00. The vernissage will see the presence of Stefano De Leo, Ambassador of Italy in Nigeria, and representatives from the diplomatic, institutional and cultural world of Abuja.

**THE WORKS ON SHOW –** In the works of Luigi Ballarin, lands and cultures that are often unknown and invisible to us become the absolute protagonists. The Venetian master, whose artistic production has always been a bridge between continents, cultures and countries, narrates them with great love, and transmits carefully, but almost whispering them to the viewer, big and small stories. The information, experiences and doctrines that the artist has obtained over the years, mixing styles and techniques, are expertly combined with social attention and cultural dialogue.

**A BRIDGE BETWEEN CONTINENTS -** Luigi Ballarin has tried with this new artistic project to travel on a journey that has at its heart Northern Nigeria: an ancient landed, marked by a thousand years of the presence of Islam and the Hausa language and culture, unifying factors that have marked the culture of the entire North way beyond the religious and ethnic borders and creating shared codes and ways of thinking, all the way down to the capital of Nigeria, Abuja. The result that catches the eye is the harmony of the whole, of the color scheme dedicated to Africa and in particular the Hausa traditional motives, of the use of colors with tones that highlight every part of the artistic message. Thus appears all the beauty and strength that the coupling of a warrior who becomes one with a horse can unleash. “Each family is a state in itself”, Nigerians say: a saying that offers the perfect key to understanding a country that encompasses a universe.

**AMBASSADOR DE LEO'S GREETING -** "Horses are a timeless global symbol, an iconic bridge of union between peoples - explains Stefano De Leo, Italian Ambassador to Nigeria - Throughout history we can trace the profound impact of these inspirational creatures in our understanding of art. In Africa, and particularly in Northern Nigeria, horses are celebrated in spectacular equestrian festivals and represent an important cultural heritage. Luigi Ballarin gives his very personal interpretation of the theme of the horse by tracing converging paths that unite different cultures, united by the values of peace and dialogue. He builds ideal bridges of color and emotion touching symbolism and spirituality”.

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTIST -** Luigi Ballarin began his artistic career in the 1990s in Venice; in the year 2000 he moved to Rome and, after an invitation for a personal exhibition, he fell in love with Istanbul. Currently he lives and works in the three cities, creating a union between different cultures with a unique and original language. His art is in fact a union between East and West and synthesizes in iconic images the suggestions of the minor arts, which traveled the paths of trade and wayfarers, and merged the different traditions: the decorations of the majolica, the enamel of the goldsmiths, the embroideries of precious fabrics.

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