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The Bone Structure of Feeling

Bronze, Earth and the Inner Silence of Valente Cancogni

Matter is never mute. Beneath the hands of Valente Cancogni, earth and bronze cease to be inert and become instead the vessel of an ancient disquiet — a vibration that travels through time to reach us intact. To stand before a work by Cancogni is to accept an invitation to pause, to stop running, and to consider the solidity of existence in a new light. There is no aesthetic self-indulgence in his sculpture, nor the reassuring smoothness that so often seduces the distracted eye. His is, rather, a path of subtraction: a relentless pursuit of the essential, excavating the flesh of the subject to uncover, at last, the bone structure of feeling itself. His figures possess a telluric gravity, emerging from an ancestral mist and bearing with them the weight of centuries alongside the fragility of the instant — a contrast between the eternal solidity of bronze and the transience of human expression that forms the artist's purest poetic signature.

Cancogni does not portray a body — he shapes its inner silence, that moment of suspension pervading each of his works, the instant preceding a cry, or following a tear. The surfaces, often tormented, receive light as living skin would: holding it, letting it slide along the lines of tension in a face or the curve of a back. Here is an artist who has never sought easy consent, pursuing instead a raw, naked truth, free of ornament — aware that to reveal the human, one must first accept its fractures. His works are not monuments to power or to glory, but testimonies to inhabiting the earth: fragile, yet unshakeable, occupying today not only physical space but the memory of those who behold them.

In the silence of the studio, where dust turns slowly in slanting rays of sunlight, Valente Cancogni has succeeded in crystallising the unspoken, leaving us a lesson that transcends technique: art is not a copy of reality, but reality carried to its most extreme threshold of meaning. And it is there, where matter meets spirit, that Cancogni remains a vigilant custodian — one capable of restoring to bronze the vital breath of a mystery that, despite the passing years, continues to interrogate us.

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