

The sweetness of giving in to a hug:

## **Gabriela Spector's art at the Museo Casa Rusca - Locarno**

*Hugs and letting go*

**April 10 - July 17, 2022**

**Museo Casa Rusca, Locarno**

There is a starting point that contains the theme presented at the Museo Casa Rusca by the artist Gabriela Spector: it is the suspension of time that has unwillingly kept us apart from each other in recent years.

A physical distance that the exhibit seems to want to cancel or perhaps exorcise with subjects that recall the image of abandonment, of letting go into a long and tender embrace.

Of those hugs that surround us, in which we abandon ourselves and from which we re-emerge regenerated. A vital message, sweet, sincere, that brings up a strong attention to introspection, as if to symbolize the limits of human life and the exhausting inevitability of suffering and loss.

*Hugs and letting go* is all this, a formidable synthesis of the creative process to which Gabriela Spector has dedicated herself with great interest, patience, and meticulousness for over thirty years.

A path where her roles of artist, woman, partner, and mother intertwine and overlap, generating an original, direct, immediate, and universal artistic synthesis.

As are the themes proposed at Casa Rusca, born, and matured on the individual experience of the artist but, as such, deeply connected to the collective experience.

Starting from her South American origins, the artist translates her most intimate personal experiences into the universal themes of motherhood, identity, but also of travel and migration.

The central themes of a life that was turned into art, in which art welcomes life itself, and then let go and surrender in a sweet hug.

Her works are an extraordinary fresco of our lives which are real and concrete, like our bodies that are made of love, tenderness, bodies that find each others and seduce, bodies in which is carved joy but also traumas and pains of life itself.

Bodies in which we inscribe our future, but also in which is contained the yearning for what we have lost forever, a real overlap of souls, which is the hallmark of the works of Gabriela Spector.

*Hugs and letting go* It is therefore an introspective journey that starts precisely from the bodies, transforming them into the symbol of a continuous wandering that, transporting the artist from motherhood to Mother Earth, finally leads to the poignant theme of migration.

In a journey that is separation but also a journey towards new horizons, a synthesis of human life with its burden of suffering, loss, and also of unexpected and extraordinary conquests.

Hence the seductive recomposition in plaster casts of fantastic anatomies that, like the oil paintings on maps, are transformed into real landscapes of the soul, an invitation for each of us to reflect on our place in the world.

Re-proposing those "Hugs and letting go" that are precisely the inextricable essence of our bodies and therefore of our very own lives.

Consequently, the escape, in its multifaceted and lacerating image of departure, abandonment and distance, finds a landing place in the Argentine artist in that "new world", the Ticino, where from the mid-nineties, she has poured her load of experiences, giving life to a very original artistic production. Versatile in its variety of expression (sculptor, painter, designer), Gabriela Spector has found in art the life that is art itself, explored by the artist with a technical-compositional language not taken for granted, almost in an existential travail between the rational will of the creator, and the innate, sometimes uncontrolled, creative fantasy.

A message that reveals the ability to interpret it, masterfully declined in shapes and materials always different and original. That is how the Swiss-Argentine artist has managed to embrace her past and then abandon herself to a new reality, walking in life with great tenacity, urging us to "cross that great sea to face changes".

An encounter that therefore leaves its mark, the one with Gabriela Spector, the result of a perfectly synthesized dialogue in the magnificent sculpture of 2020, Rediscover - Embrace, today located in the garden of Casa Rusca, which perfectly symbolizes the creative process that has accompanied her in the last three decades.

An encounter with herself that is a sweet discovery, an invitation to surrender to the slow flow of time, knowing - the artist reminds us - "that we are made by special gestures that nourish our existence".

## Biographical Note

Gabriela Spector was born in northern Argentina, in San Miguel de Tucumán, on June 12, 1968. She attended the Facultad de Bellas Artes of the local Universidad Nacional, earning a license in plastic arts. Towards the end of the eighties, she obtained her first award, starting to exhibit in collective exhibitions even outside the national borders. In the nineties she moved to Italy with a scholarship that allowed her to complete her training, especially in sculpture, working first in Milan at the Fonderia Artistica Battaglia - where she deepened the technique of bronze casting - then in Carrara, where he attended the Academy of Fine Arts, specializing in marble processing techniques.

In the early nineties she settled in the Canton Ticino, while maintaining contact with the nearby Peninsula where he continues to exhibit. Gabriela Spector then began to make herself known in Italian Switzerland, where her works became part of public and private collections, thanks to the choice to set up a permanent exhibition space in Mendrisio, outside the Church of San Sisino. In these years the artist matures and develops those techniques that will characterize her throughout her career. Then she focuses on the creation of sculptures in bronze and terracotta, in particular on the human figure and its intimacy, with works then grouped and presented in the early 2000s in the exhibition *Voglia di pancia* (Gut desire).

Then she moves towards the theme of migration, travel, and identity, creating sculptures and paintings where she also uses maps, which are the subject of a first exhibition in 2007 in Versilia, in Pietrasanta, entitled *Maps of memory*. Gabriela Spector then focuses on what she defines as "the poetry of everyday life," that is the representation of the family or of certain subjects that return frequently even in recent works, often large, also placed in squares or private gardens. The artist, who continues to present her works in solo and group exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad, lives and works in Riva San Vitale, where she established her atelier "La Fenice".

## Information

<b>Location</b>	Museo Casa Rusca Piazza Sant'Antonio, 6600 Locarno
<b>Date</b>	April 10 - July 17, 2022
<b>Opening</b>	Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 6pm
<b>Hours</b>	Tuesday-Sunday 10.00am-12.00pm / 2.00pm-5:00pm Closed Monday
<b>Price</b>	Full admission CHF 15.- Reduced AVS/AI and groups CHF 10.- Students 18 and over CHF 8.- Free admission for schools and young people up to 18 years

### COMBINED TICKET CASORELLA MUSEUM-CASTLE-CASA RUSCA MUSEUM

Full admission	CHF 20.-
Reduced AVS/AI and groups	CHF 14.-
Students 18 and over	CHF 12.-

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