

# Velasco Vitali VEIDRODIS

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54th International Art Exhibition - Venice Biennale



**Veidrodis is a work of art that belongs to a larger project that Velasco Vitali develops by working on the idea of the “ghost town”: the town that is lingering in time and is in between the memories of the past, the actual present days and the possible future.**

The work of art was launched at the Venice Biennale and it has been designed and built for the Padiglione Italia. Veidrodis's inspiration is drawn from Kitezh, the legendary town which submerged itself in the lake in the XIII century to escape the Tartar attempt to conquer the town. Kitezh was built on the shores of lake Svetloyar. Since then, it was hidden and pilgrims travelled to the lake to try and spot the town amidst the water ripples or hoped to hear the church's bells chime. This legend was then told by the Russian composer, Rimsky Korsakov, who composed the work “The Legend of the invisible city of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevronija” (1907), and by the Bavarian filmmaker, Werner Herzog, in his documentary “Bells from the deep” (1993).

“If you want to hear how Indo-Europeans spoke, you need to listen to the way Lithuanian peasants speak”, Antoine Meillet, a famous French linguist, says.

Veidrodis is a Lithuanian word that can be translated as “mirror”, and yet, it is a word made of two other words: one of them means “it that makes you see” and the other means “your self“. Veidrodis is what makes you see your self. What makes you see your self is the very search for Kitezh, or the search for its reflection or the chimes of its bells: the utopia of perfection.

The sculptures portraying the three people looking for Kitezh are made of tar, iron and rags and are laid on a stainless steel platform that has been smoothed down by using glass and sand and built by the Marzorati Ronchetti laboratories. The bodies of the three sculptures are shaped on the size of the artist's body and the sections of the platform are shaped on the artist's hand lines.



## Biography

Velasco Vitali was born in Bellano, on Lake Como, in 1960.

His career began when he met Giovanni Testori and took part into the “Artisti e Scrittori” exhibition at the “La Rotonda della Besana” in Milan.

After a number of art shows, his paintings start being focused on the tragedy that destroyed most of the Valtellina area at the end of the 80s. His work then resulted in “Paesaggio Cancellato”, an exhibition that was organised by Roberto Tassi (1990).

Velasco Vitali's constant interest in portraits remains unchanged; however, after starting working with the “Officina Milanese” group at the end of the 90s, his works are enriched by new contents: Sicily and the discovery of Southern Italy. This is how “Isolitudine”, in collaboration with Ferdinando Scianna in the year 2000 and “MIXtura”, in collaboration with Franco Battiato in 2003, are created.

In 2004, Electa publishes “Velasco 20”, a monograph dealing with his first 20 years of work in the art sector, enriched by a critical and philosophical article by Giulio Giorello. “Extramoenia” is a project that has been supported by the Regional Government of Sicily and was displayed in Palermo at the Belmonte Riso Palace, and was also displayed at the Ragione di Milano Palace (Charta catalogue).

“Tana” was created in 2006. This is a site-specific project that was developed for the “Teatro dell'Arte di Milano”. In 2007, a big work of art was displayed in the Ultime Cene di Milano hall (Refettorio delle Stelline) and the “Immagini, forme e natura delle Alpi” project is developed in Sondrio; it deals with the nature and the environment of the Alps and is organised by Danilo Eccher. In 2008, Mr. Vitali and Mr. Eccher work together on the LATO 4 project at the ProjectB Gallery in Milan. In 2008, the artist takes part in the Junkbuilding event at “La Triennale Bovisa”, more than 100 drawings telling the story of the city are published and are accompanied by the stories written by Michele Mari, Milano Fantasma.

In 2009, Velasco Vitali takes part in “I paesaggi e la natura dell'arte”, a collective exhibition dedicated to the relations between art and nature at the ARCOS Museum in Benevento. “Sbarco” (2010) is organised by

Fernando Mazzocca and Francesco Poli. It is displayed in Piazza Duomo, Milan; in the Sant'Agostino building, Pietrasanta, and Piazza Duca D'Aosta and Palazzo Reale, Milan. In 2011, the LKFF Gallery in Brussels welcomes his show "Branco".

The artist has been collaborating with the Italian daily newspaper "Il Corriere della Sera" since 2007: his drawings are published in the cultural section of the newspaper.

Mr. Velasco's works of art are owned by private and public collectors, e.g.: the "Collezione Farnesina" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MACRO Collection, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome.

**Work of art: Veidrodis**

**Artist: Velasco Vitali**

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

3 sculptures portraying three men.

Tar, iron, rags. Various sizes.

Stainless steel platform that has been smoothed down by using glass marbles and sand. cm 400 x 400

