

**Antonio Adriano Puleo**

Una Cosa È Una Cosa  
May 14 - June 25, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 14, 4-7pm

*"Ever since I can remember I have understood the world through a tangle of language. Growing up in a bilingual home that was culturally diverse from my surroundings, I was aware of a difference from my home inside and my world outside. When I think back to my relationship with language, I've realized that it was responsible for the relationship I have with my inner self and the relationship that I have with abstraction.*

*Over the past couple of years, as I was making the works in this exhibition, time sort of suspended and morphed into an abstracted sense of demarcation. As the days became weeks, weeks became months, months became a year, and then two years, there was a different sense of space within time, a less defined sense of time—less moving around, more redundancy. A sense of suspended reality set in.*

*During this period, I managed to make a trip to my childhood home. This felt like a rare occasion, whereas it is typically a regular occurrence. On this trip I found a book in my father's vast collection, *Una Cosa È Una Cosa*, in English "A Thing is A Thing," a collection of short stories written by Alberto Moravia. In this collection of short stories, Moravia's main characters, alienated from society, have no desire to use words to describe how they feel. Using an existential voice, Moravia describes the world as it appears—as if it were unnecessary to use words to describe it—a thing is what it is. On the cover, the title is beautifully embossed in gold letters, and on the inside flap, an illustration of a Pegasus included in the publisher's logo. My father typically inscribed his books with his name in his signature penmanship, but I took note of this particular book, first for its title, then because my father had inscribed an entire page with a note in Italian.*

*"To my son Pasquale, so that through the readings of Moravia, he may realize the value of life. Just living is enough to make a man happy. We must make life art that, thanks to its fascinating beauties, can live eternally in our thoughts, meditations of the past, with the joy of the present and hope of the future. Affectionately, mamma Graziella"*

*He inscribed the inside of Moravia's book, as if it had been written by his mother, because he sensed the need to disengage himself from his inner life and associate with his immediate landscape. My dad immigrated to America with his family in 1966. He read to live and lived to read. His life was being transformed, and existed in two separate lives—an external life where he conformed to the norms of American society and an inner life where he reconciled with his Italian particularities."*

– Antonio Adriano Puleo

Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present *Una Cosa È Una Cosa*, a solo exhibition by Antonio Adriano Puleo. The works in this exhibition explore conceptions of time, language and abstraction, particularly the ability for each to hold influence and necessity over the other. A personal index of abstract shapes, that Puleo has been

working with for over ten years, serve as an organizational basis and catalyst for the works in the exhibition. In *Una Cosa È Una Cosa*, symbolism is explored in a series of works each titled after an element of time as we define it, but perhaps not how we always understand it.

Four stained glass panels each representing one of the four seasons are installed in the four windows of the upper façade of the gallery. In the main gallery space, six paintings complete with a complementary work on paper are titled after the days of the week designated for work. In the backroom of the gallery, hung on an ochre-colored wall is the seventh painting signifying the final day of the week—the day of rest and reflection. In the upstairs gallery the months of the year are considered in a grouping of twelve paintings. Puleo's index of abstract shapes is further echoed in a large-scale, black and white mural encompassing the full height of the far gallery wall. This motif is carried over into a custom textile that has been used to create curtains and an upholstered bench, as well as tiles that line the floor of the upstairs gallery space.

Puleo's artistic process is defined not by singularity, but the continuation of communication across mediums. An interest in the history of language and abstraction inform his mode of production, particularly how different histories, cultures, situations, and collective experiences have defined and continue to mold how we experience image, language, shape and form. In this exhibition, an acknowledgment of the sacred is also palpable. The historical relationship between art and religion and the reliance on each other are explored. Of particular significance to Puleo is Henri Matisse's *Chapelle du Rosaire de Vence*, in which Matisse envisioned the entirety of the project, spending more than four years working on the chapel, its architecture, stained glass windows, interior furnishings, murals, and the priests' vestments. Puleo continues that art historical conversation through the works in this exhibition, a dialog with those who came before and a record for those who will follow.

Antonio Adriano Puleo was born in Boston, MA and now lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. Drawing inspiration and paying homage to various artistic sources including poetry, literature, architecture, and art history, Puleo's abstract geometric arrangements of form and color favor interconnectedness. Through the systemic application of a personal index of abstract forms, structures are created that act as a through line from project to project so as they can communicate and also act as a gateway to the next idea. Puleo received his M.F.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has exhibited at galleries and institutions including LAXART, Los Angeles, CA; Pavel Zoubok Gallery, New York, NY; Kantor Feuer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA; China Art Objects, Los Angeles CA; and The East Gallery at Claremont Graduate University. His works are included in numerous private and public collections including most recently the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. His work has been reviewed and featured in many publications including *Artforum*, *The New Yorker*, *LA Weekly*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Flash Art*.

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**Check List**



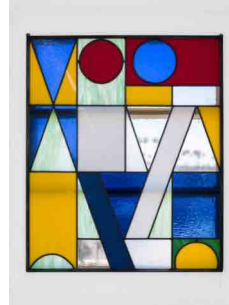
Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Inverno (Winter)  
2022  
Stained glass  
24 ¾h x 20 ¾w inches  
63h x 53w cm  
AAP-071



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Primavera (Spring)  
2022  
Stained glass  
24 ¾h x 20 ¾w inches  
63h x 53w cm  
AAP-072



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Estate (Summer)  
2022  
Stained glass  
24 ¾h x 20 ¾w inches  
63h x 53w cm  
AAP-073



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Autunno (Autumn)  
2022  
Stained glass  
24 ¾h x 20 ¾w inches  
63h x 53w cm  
AAP-074



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Lunedì (Monday)  
2022  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
84h x 45w inches  
213.36h x 114.30w cm  
AAP-059



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Lunedì Studio  
(Monday Study)  
2022  
Flashe, oil, and collaged paper  
on paper with artist frame  
18 ½h x 13 ½w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-060



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Martedì (Tuesday)  
2022  
Flashe on linen  
84h x 45w inches  
213.36h x 114.30w cm  
AAP-061



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Martedì Studio  
(Tuesday Study)  
2022  
Flashe, pencil, and collaged  
paper on paper with artist  
frame  
18 ½h x 13 ½w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-062



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Mercoledì (Wednesday)  
2022  
Oil and Flashe on linen  
84h x 45w inches  
213.36h x 114.30w cm  
AAP-063



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Mercoledì Studio  
(Wednesday Study)  
2022  
Flashe, oil, and collaged paper  
on paper with artist frame  
18 ½h x 13 ½w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-064



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Giovedì (Thursday)  
2022  
Oil, Flashe, ink, and collaged  
canvas on canvas  
84h x 45w inches  
213.36h x 114.30w cm  
AAP-065



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Giovedì Studio  
(Thursday Study)  
2022  
Oil, Flashe, pencil, and collaged  
paper on paper with artist  
frame  
18 ½h x 13 ½w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-066



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Venerdì (Friday)  
2022  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
84h x 45w inches  
213.36h x 114.30w cm  
AAP-067



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Venerdì Studio  
(Friday Study)  
2022  
Oil, Flashe, and collaged paper  
on canvas with artist frame  
18 ½h x 13 ½w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-068



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Sabato (Saturday)  
2022  
Oil, Flashe, and marble dust on  
canvas  
84h x 45w inches  
213.36h x 114.30w cm  
AAP-069



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Sabato Studio  
(Saturday Study)  
2022  
Flashe, watercolor, and pencil  
on paper with artist frame  
18 ½h x 13 ½w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-070



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Domenica (Sunday)  
2022  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
42h x 22 1/2w inches  
106.68h x 57.15w cm  
AAP-057



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Domenica Studio  
(Sunday Study)  
2022  
Flashe, oil, and collaged paper  
on paper with artist frame  
18 1/2h x 13 1/2w inches  
47h x 34.3w cm  
AAP-058



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Gennaio (January)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-045



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Febbraio (February)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-051



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Marzo (March)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-054



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Aprile (April)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on linen  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-048



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Maggio (May)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-055



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Giugno (June)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-052



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Luglio (July)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-053



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Agosto (August)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-056



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Settembre (September)  
2021  
Oil and ink on linen  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-049



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Ottobre (October)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-047



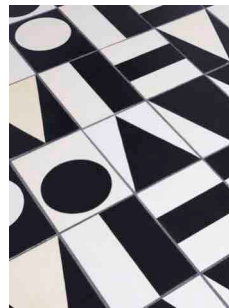
Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Novembre (November)  
2021  
Oil on linen  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-050



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Dicembre (December)  
2021  
Oil and Flashe on canvas  
28h x 15w inches  
71.12h x 38.10w cm  
AAP-046



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Una Cosa È Una Cosa -  
Le Tende  
2022  
Silk screen on linen  
98h x 54w inches  
249h x 137w cm  
AAP-076



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Una Cosa È Una Cosa -  
Piastrelle  
2022  
Oil enamel on Hydro-Stone  
12h x 9w inches (each)  
30.5h x 23w cm (each)  
AAP-077



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Una Cosa È Una Cosa -  
Panca  
2022  
Maple with high dense foam  
cushion  
20h x 72w x 16d inches  
51h x 183w x 40.6d cm  
edition 1 of 3 / 2 AP  
AAP-078



Antonio Adriano Puleo  
Una Cosa È Una Cosa -  
Murale  
2022  
Latex paint  
17h x 14w feet  
5.18h x 4.26w meters  
AAP-075