

TOMMASO CALABRO

TIGER TATEISHI

Opening Thursday, 25 January 2024, 12 pm – 8 pm

26 January – 23 March 2024
Corso Italia 47, 20122 Milan

*I don't want to be a painter, nor an illustrator, nor a cartoonist.
What I want is ceaseless anarchy.*

Tiger Tateishi

Tommaso Calabro inaugurates its new Milanese gallery in Corso Italia 47 with **Tiger Tateishi**, an exhibition dedicated to the Japanese artist **Tiger Tateishi (1941-1998)**, one of the most eclectic figures in the Milanese and international art scene of the second half of the last century.

A painter, mangaka, illustrator and ceramist, Tiger Tateishi was a multifaceted and charismatic artist. Tateishi had the ability to rework and converge the symbols of Asian culture, both Japanese and Chinese, into a syncretic universe, incorporating Western artistic influences that deeply fascinated him, such as Pop Art, Anti-Art, Cubism, Surrealism and Metaphysical art.

Born as Koichi Tateishi in December 1941 in Tagawa, a coal-mining town in the Fukuoka Prefecture, Tateishi approaches the world of manga and Shōwa-era films at a very young age, to escape a childhood of deprivation in Japan's difficult postwar period. A skilled draftsman, Tateishi wins his first art award at the age of six and sees his work published in a weekly manga magazine at the age of thirteen. After high school, he moves to Tokyo, where he studies at the Musashino Art University Junior College of Art, joining the Japanese Dadaist Avant-Garde group of the early 1960s.

In 1968, at the age of twenty-seven, **he moves to Milan** with his partner, the artist Ichige Fumiko, where they reside until 1981. Throughout the 1970s, Tateishi **carves out a space of his own in the Milan's vibrant cultural scene**, that of the Galleria Iolas, the Galleria del Naviglio, with artists such as Roberto Crippa and Lucio Fontana, and the city's design scene. From 1971 to 1974, he works in the studio of Ettore Sottsass, and collaborates as an artistic consultant and illustrator with important companies, including Alessi and Olivetti.

The exhibition *Tiger Tateishi* includes a **selection of works on paper and paintings created between the late 1960s and the 1970s**, during the artist's stay in Milan and his travels in Europe.

The Italian years are the most prolific for Tateishi in terms of pictorial production. In Milan, he begins signing his works with the signature "Tiger Pinxit," produces his first, rare lithographs, and develops his famous "cartoon" paintings. Between 1969 and 1981, before moving back to Japan, Tateishi produced circa one hundred of

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these paintings, kaleidoscopes of images and icons. where his greatest passions converge: **surrealism, science fiction and comics.**

26 January – 23 March 2024
Tuesday – Saturday / 11 am – 7 pm
Monday / by appointment

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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