SYNOPSIS OF *RIFRAZIONE*

by Dr. Valentina Minniti

1. *On this side of pictorial space*

«[The artist Macario] has constructed a “beyond” and a “this side” in relation to the canvas: the viewer stands on this side of such a grille (...) and there is a pane of glass beyond which a landscape can be glimpsed, suggested also through the rendering of the atmosphere».

— From the critical commentary (edited transcript) by Dr. V. Minniti, art critic, on the occasion of the presentation of the work *Rifrazione* (Guatemala National Pavilion curated by Dr. S. Pieralice - 61st Venice Biennale, 04/11/2026)

2. *Memory in the form of a landscape*

«What the master [Macario] wishes to depict is a landscape born of his own memory, albeit reconstructed through “the painter’s eye”. (...) It is not a landscape necessarily to be sought in reality, although it draws inspiration from reality (...), an intimate reality, certainly, or, more properly, a reminiscence».

— From the critical commentary (edited transcript) by Dr. V. Minniti, art critic, on the occasion of the presentation of the work *Rifrazione* (Guatemala National Pavilion curated by Dr. S. Pieralice - 61st Venice Biennale, 04/11/2026)

3. *A metaphor for Painting*

«The painting, *Rifrazione*, is intended as a metaphor for Painting, which is nothing other than a visual game, an optical illusion that uses colour as its primary means of expression».

— From the critical commentary (edited transcript) by Dr. V. Minniti, art critic, on the occasion of the presentation of the work *Rifrazione* (Guatemala National Pavilion curated by Dr. S. Pieralice - 61st Venice Biennale, 04/11/2026)

4. Light on antique glass

«While painting this picture, I was trying to understand how light behaved on the material, which in this case was antique glass. Antique glass, therefore, being imperfect, distorted what could be seen behind it.

And indeed, with the palette knife too, I was trying, quite rightly, to make marks, but these marks had two sides: a darker side and a lighter side, because this sense of the refraction of light had to emerge.»

— GPaolo Macario