

LIGHTLANDS FOR ELENA BONO

In the quest of LIGHT

I've spent my childhood in the countryside around Asti, surrounded by every tone of green and in an ever changing iridescent light. From the cobalt and Prussia blue of the sky to the whites generated by the storms and the dazzling sky-blue of the days with a full sunlight. I was fascinated, according to where I was positioned, by all those ever changing colours of the vegetation.

An ever ending search over and above the explanations of the physical phenomena given by ever loving people that I extenuated by my thousand questions in order to satisfy my curiosity.

Later in life, I discovered the beauty of "field research". I studied painting in order to sit in the fields and express the emotions I felt for these fascinating colours. I also studied photography to catch the new aspects of light.

I then discovered that my curiosity had another nature, it was the mystery of light that fascinated me....

As a believer, the answer to my childhood curiosity that has become a research on light and colour is only one: you find it in the incipit (opening words) of John's Gospel:

*[1] In the beginning was the Word
the Word was with God
and the Word was God.*

[2] He was in the beginning with God:

*[3]and all things were made through Him,
And without Him nothing was made of all that
exists.*

*[4] in Him was life
and the life was the light of men;*

*[5]the light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not overcome it.*

This is the perfect answer that only God can give.

In the face of this absolute, what can one do?

I'm a man that has always fought with the forces of the Creation that fascinate me and that struggle within my soul.

The drive for the art started as an adolescent and has given me a happy torment all my life. A desire for research and expression that has not abandoned me even now that I'm no adolescent.

Painting, photographing, staging and molding has been and is the dictate of my life. I would not know how otherwise to thank The Lord for what he hath given and is giving me.

Let me say that my prayer is to bring into play the talents that the Lord has given me. When I work I feel the same "closeness" I feel like when I turn to Him, with the words or a thought of prayer.

My work, my inspiration arose from the desire to tell of Creation. And therefore, of God.

The gesture, the artistic action, allow me to approach Him and make me feel less in His debt. Because I have received and still receive a lot from life. Nothing special or maybe yes: the grace of Faith above all.

In my search paths, I have found the writings of Elena Bono.

On January the 8th I had read in the **Avvenire** newspaper a whole page dedicated to her. Together with Stefania Venturino, her irreplaceable helper I went to visit her. Sitting next to this suffering woman who showed a feverish desire to live, I announced to her that I wanted to start a project inspired by her verses.

She received my words with surprise, happy that her poems could tie in with my research on light and colour.

She will not be able to see it because her eyesight is irreparably tarnished. Forced in bed by a long illness, she doesn't stop smiling and offering to those who visit her, excellent chocolates.

Elena, a firm believer, will accompany us spiritually to the show-performance of Verezzi.

We have entitled it "**Linghtlands for Elena Bono**": a tribute to her and also to the public so I will try to convey the emotions that I experienced reading them.

Franco Gervasio
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