

PRESS RELEASE

Francesca Bertazzoni

Defenceless. The next road

Opening: 20 February 2025, h 6 pm

The exhibition will be open from 21 February 2025 to 15 March 2025

Visit the gallery from Thursday to Saturday, from 3 to 7 pm, or by appointment.

A+B Gallery, Brescia

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A+B Gallery is pleased to host the exhibition *Defenceless. The next road* by Francesca Bertazzoni (Bologna, 1977), presented as part of the Special Gallery Prize awarded at Premio Combat 2023.

Her research takes shape from an intimate and deep-rooted connection with the street—an essential yet silent companion that serves as a space for listening, a trace of passages, and an evolving narrative. Walking, pausing, observing, collecting—every element of her work stems from the experience of the journey, the contact with matter, and the memory embedded in places.

Bertazzoni embraced walking as an artistic practice in 2020, when movement restrictions turned the street into a territory of research and resistance. Since then, walking has become an expressive device, a trajectory from which signs, materials, encounters, and memories emerge. Engaging in an exclusive dialogue with asphalt—a liminal and ever-changing space where the work takes shape—Bertazzoni walks against the flow, follows the road markings, absorbs their visual grammar, and translates them into a sculptural language. The white line becomes both guide and boundary, margin and protection, the directive of her movement. Walking becomes a process of sedimentation, a collection of traces: materials such as bituminous membrane, cold asphalt, felt, spray paint, and gold layer into her works, forming a material archive that draws from the direct experience of the journey, as well as from objects and elements recovered from her past and family history.

Francesca Bertazzoni was born in Bologna in 1977. After pursuing scientific studies in chemistry, she enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna, where she graduated in Restoration and later in Sculpture and Visual Arts. In 2018, she participated as an artist tutor in the *Making of an Artist 3* workshop at the Lanfranco Baldi Foundation in Pelago (FI), invited by then-president Pier Luigi Tazzi; within the same project, she curated the publication of the event's catalog. Since 2020, she has incorporated walking as a solitary practice into her work and, in 2021, inaugurated her solo show *Principi di pulsione*. As part of the *Family Matters* project—invited by Mattia Pajè, artist and artistic director of the independent space Gelateria sogni di ghiaccio (Bologna)—she exhibited her first works in asphalt. In 2023, she participated in the Combat Prize (Livorno), receiving a mention in the Sculpture section and winning the Special Gallery Prize, leading to her selection for a solo exhibition at A+B Gallery (Brescia). In 2025, she will present her solo show *Casamatta* at SPAZIO49 (her studio in Bologna) as part of Art City, a collateral event of Arte Fiera Bologna, and, in the same year, will open her exhibition *Defenceless. The next road* at A+B Gallery (Brescia), marking the culmination of the collaborative project initiated through the Combat Prize 2023.