

## Franco Testa

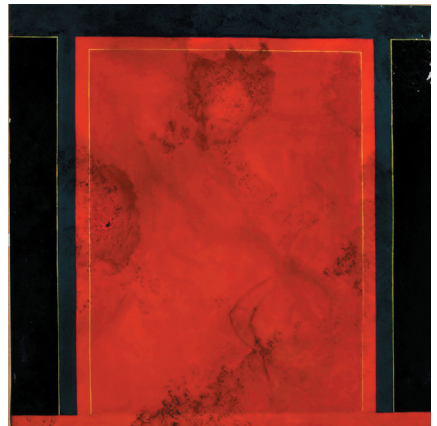


The modern and the ancient meet in **Franco Testa's** mesmerizing paintings. On one hand, he paints in acrylics and often gives the intense shades that acrylic paint offers a decidedly Pop art spin. This is especially true as regards the bold blocks of red that appear in his works. But Testa also uses the hue in a variety of more subtle ways, giving it a washed-out cast that suggests a weathered fresco, or making it an accent that mixes dynamically with a composition composed mostly of elegant earth tones. The artist says one of the main inspirations for his use of red was a historical one: the warm, rich reds he found to be characteristic of the ruins of Pompeii, in his native Italy. In many of his paintings, he tries to bring that world alive for viewers, balancing a faithful classicism with a cheeky modern take on sensuality that still manages to echo the past. "Seeing my work," he says, "one gets the feeling that part of the wall was torn and pasted on canvas."



**Rosso n. 54**

Acrylic on Canvas  
39.5" x 39.5"



**Rosso Pompeiano n.43**

Acrylic on Canvas  
39.5" x 39.5"