

## GIULIANO DELLA CASA: REPERTORY MIRACLES

by Massimo Gualtieri

*We have found some of Giuliano della Casa's more recent works as illustrations to Paolo Baldini's minor fables in The Marvels of Senator No's Spirit (Modena, 1984). The book bears the subtitle: Extraordinary Tales.*

*There is no affinity to Japan's Noble Dramas because, although the strokes are arranged with the calculated immediacy of oriental poses, what's absent is any attempt at oriental romanticism. But the functional pretext furnished to us by title and subtitle alike suits remarkably well the other pretext, which is the beginning of our comment. More specifically, that "tales" which expresses the ancestral soul of painting, the calling from within, and which with Giuliano della Casa reaches a glorious edification of his own history of art. A taste of monotonous and monological narration (modeled after a journal or perhaps even the intimate diary of the left) in which reality, as the anonymous and conscience-stricken voice of the dictionary, is reduced to mere citation, a tragicomical repertory miracle, yet still a miracle. Surely, the miracle is monotonous and monological, but so is metaphysics.*

*Thus, we discover that Giuliano della Casa's already vast catalogue has further enriched itself of "thingly" [cosali] multitudes, aimed at serving perfectly as epigraphs (Baroque epigraphs), as notes to the various chapters of his work. One finds a veil of placid irony, mature and yet less powdered, less profound: Rossini's "civilized" irony. The comparison with the Great One is also very fitting with regard to the measured musical affinity, the common lyricism, belcantistico, so often encountered in Giuliano's watercolors, arranged as one would a "brass" concert, him too, preferring the horn.*

*We are grateful to the Camene for to them we attribute the special lightness, the gentleness of Giuliano's paintings: the love for the learned footnote, the masterly rapidity of the sign, the enigmatic cloud of objective impalpability which envelops them. In short, a crescendo.*

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[Translated from the Italian by Antonio Dolce]

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