

TEODORA AXENTE
Allegoria
Dedica ad Ambrogio Lorenzetti



Teodora Axente, *Conseguenze del Buon Governo*, 2026, oil on wood panel, 30 x 42cm

Curated by Riccardo Freddo and Michela Eremita

Opening: 8 August 2026, 6:00 pm

Museo Civico, Palazzo Pubblico, Siena

Both the Museo Civico at Palazzo Pubblico in Siena and gallery rosenfeld are pleased to present *Allegoria: Dedica ad Ambrogio Lorenzetti*, a major site-specific installation by Romanian artist Teodora Axente, opening on 8 August 2026. Curated by Riccardo Freddo and Michela Eremita, the exhibition marks an extraordinary opportunity for the artist to engage directly with one of the greatest masterpieces in the history of Italian art: Ambrogio Lorenzetti's *Allegory and Effects of Good and Bad Government* (1338).

Created specifically for the historic spaces of Palazzo Pubblico, Axente's installation comprises two monumental polyptychs consisting of twenty-two paintings, conceived in direct dialogue with Lorenzetti's celebrated fresco cycle. Installed alongside the fourteenth-century masterpiece, these new works establish a compelling conversation spanning nearly seven centuries, exploring enduring themes of power, morality, civic responsibility, and the consequences of political action.

Widely regarded as one of the defining achievements of Western art, Lorenzetti's *Allegory and Effects of Good and Bad Government* was conceived as both a visual and ethical guide for the rulers of the Republic of Siena. Departing from traditional religious iconography, the fresco cycle presents a sophisticated secular meditation on governance and civic life.

In the *Allegory of Good Government*, the Common Good is accompanied by the personifications of Justice, Peace, Prudence and Temperance, while the surrounding scenes depict a flourishing city and

countryside animated by prosperity, productive labour and social harmony. In the Allegory of Bad Government, by contrast, Tyranny and the Vices - Cruelty, Fraud and War - lead society towards violence, instability and ruin.

Drawing inspiration from this timeless masterpiece, Teodora Axente reinterprets Lorenzetti's allegorical language through a distinctly contemporary sensibility. Her paintings explore the psychological and symbolic dimensions of power, bringing forth figures suspended between strength and vulnerability, transcendence and collapse. Through her unmistakable visual language and extraordinary technical precision, the artist reflects on the complexities of the human condition while reaffirming the enduring relevance of Lorenzetti's vision.

Installed in direct dialogue with the original frescoes, *Allegoria: Dedicata ad Ambrogio Lorenzetti* offers a rare encounter between contemporary painting and one of the foundational works of political thought in the history of art. The exhibition builds a bridge between past and present, demonstrating how the questions raised by Ambrogio Lorenzetti almost seven centuries ago continue to resonate with remarkable urgency today.