

Standouts in Niche Perfume: Fragrances from ScentXplore 2022

Art Books Events

by Adam Forziati, Patric Rhys - 12/20/22



Daymon from Mendittorosa struck me as a very emotional creation. Gentle in its notes and sillage, this contemplative scent cleverly balances sharp, waxy iris against softer sandalwood, tonka, neroli, and what smelled like a natural angelica root extract. My only complaint was that the atmosphere around the booth was so cluttered and rife with other smells, since this strikes me as the type of perfume one wears when they wish to look inward.

Mendittorosa slides onto shelves with 20 perfumes and, incredibly, absolutely none of them are phoned-in at the slightest. Divided into two collections, Odori d'Anima and Talismans, both are clearly based around sacred themes. Aptly so, because they're very transcendent of the sum of their parts.

Each one is composed with gazelle-like perfumery flourishes, fitting opposing notes and concepts together like they were all just made to go together inside a comforting breeze. There always seems to be an airy, ethereal quality, no matter the bottle, but each still loses no tenacity. They actually publish the concentrations of each formula, and each easily hit the 25%-35% range.

Alfa was the most stunning to me, at once leathery, green, earthy, fresh, brightly floral, and slightly milky, all in a single sniff. It's quite a gorgeous ride that had me an instant fan, especially of perfumer Amélie Bourgeois. Other scents like Le Mat do a pinwheel spiral of rose, geranium and patchouli (all smelling stunningly lush and natural), casting off warm fall spice as it spins in a cashmere breeze. Rituale is another great example of alchemy. Described as "a soothing balsam for skin", it's at once floral, resinous, honeyed, sacred, woody, and fruity, yet deeply grounded, layered, but all in the same inhale. This line does gymnastics in your nostrils on the regular.

But if you want to talk about bottles, each one of Menditorosa's is a sculpted work of art in and of itself. Thick glass, twisted metal and bejeweled caps, some with carved wood, some polished, matte-sparkling stones, some wrapped in twine and carrying their own talismans - all coming to you in a wooden box, made to resemble the containers that fine art is transported in. The line nearly guarantees you'll notice, stop, sniff, and the constructions within the bottles will make you stop in your tracks just as equally, glad you did.