

con il patrocinio di



COMPLESSO DI SANT'AGOSTINO **Pietrasanta (Lucca)**

Stefano Chiassai. Incantamento *curated by Gianluca Ranzi*

26 October 2025 - 8 February 2026
opening Saturday 25 October, 6 p.m.

press release, 6 October 2025

“Stefano Chiassai. Incantamento”, curated by Gianluca Ranzi, is a solo exhibition of strong visual impact and profound thematic intensity, on view from 26 October 2025 to 8 February 2026 in the evocative Sant’Agostino complex, inside the church, the cloister and the bell tower square, in Pietrasanta. The exhibition is held under the patronage of the Municipality of Pietrasanta and the Province of Lucca.

More than 100 works make up the exhibition path, featuring works, many of them previously unseen, on paper, tapestries, design objects and sculptures, all sharing that distinctive texture, motif and style that characterize Stefano Chiassai’s drawing, with its fresh, dynamic and playful line.

The artist has the ability to address contemporary issues, events related to national and international politics, an ever-changing society, the horror of war, environmental urgencies and fragments of everyday life through vivid colours and lively forms, in a clear and transparent manner, reaching viewers directly.

In his daily practice of recording facts and events, there is no second-guessing: emotions and reflections are impressed directly onto the paper, prompting empathy and critical thought.

Of remarkable creativity are the *Sgorbis*, often protagonists of the works: imaginary creatures suspended between the real and the fantastic world—invented characters and animals, goblins and floating surreal objects—that represent positive attitudes of the human spirit and embody the cornerstones of Chiassai’s artistic universe, always oriented toward a better future.

The Mayor of Pietrasanta, Alberto Stefano Giovannetti, comments: “The exhibition that Stefano Chiassai has prepared for Pietrasanta and that will accompany us until February is a contemporary project of great value, set within the ancient treasure chest of our Sant’Agostino Complex. Along this path we see the artist interpreting and expressing our time: the months of the pandemic, the major conflicts that have erupted around the world, but also the need for welcome and balance. I wish to thank Chiassai for the originality of his work and above all for the commitment with which he has presented it, with professionalism and dedication, even in a less-than-ideal situation, given the concurrent

restoration of the façade of the Church of Sant'Agostino, made possible thanks to the support of the Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation.”

The exhibition originates as a site-specific project conceived to create a dialogue with the different spaces and to offer an immersive experience capable of evoking connections between past and present, between individual experience and collective memory. Along the imposing nave, large-scale tapestries—some over two metres high—find their perfect placement, narrating contemporaneity in a visionary way. Their weaving, executed on a Jacquard loom, renders the forms vivid and vibrant. Threads and textures address demanding themes related to history, current events, society, ecology and peace, as seen in *Without Memory There Is No Future, Dedicated to Women and Freedom, Giulia and All the Others, Bee... Bee... Bee... and Their Incredible World, Blah Blah Blah Only Peace*, alongside works depicting lighter and more joyful moments such as the passing of time and the seasons in *Spring* and *Sgorbis Positivity*, or works connected to sport and its values, including *The Olympics* and *Italy in the Davis Cup*.

In the choir, which concludes the nave, visitors encounter the *Aliens*: four imposing and magnetic anthropomorphic figures, suspended between tribal memory and future imaginaries.

Created using 3D printing, these sculptures share identical body structures but differ in their gestures. Minimal variations in arms and legs generate rhythm, speed and movement, suggesting a process of mutation and continuous evolution. Their austere and silent presence invites reflection on being and appearance, on the real and the artificial. The texture that covers them—defined by the artist as “a tattooed skin,” rich in symbols, words and drawings—refers back to universal values such as Future, Peace, Hope, Dream, Humanity, Equality and Love, essential concepts in his artistic practice. Completing this section, a video documents the phases of the creative process, offering visitors the opportunity to closely explore the artist, his imaginative universe and the stages that led to the creation of some of the works, where fantasy and rigor intertwine to give shape to powerful and concrete visions.

In the Chapter Hall, visitors are immersed in an environment transformed by the creative vision and unmistakable stylistic signature of Stefano Chiassai: here an installation of tapestries and everyday objects—rugs, garments and seating—interact with one another, creating a strong sense of involvement.

The Putti Room instead hosts a selection from the well-known series of marker drawings begun in 2020 with the *Diary of a Lockdown* and still ongoing, displayed on fabric-covered panels animated by the *Sgorbis*, bearers of a positive and hopeful message. Also on view are works on paper that the artist has been producing daily for years, used as matrices for the creation of the tapestries. In these works, lines, colours, words and figures compose a dense and layered language, allowing the overwhelming charisma of his kaleidoscopic poetics to emerge.

The exhibition path also extends to the outdoor spaces where, in the bell tower square, the monumental sculpture entitled *Respect* rises as an exhortation to kindness and coexistence. Standing three and a half metres tall and made of bronze, the work unfolds like a silent soul of nature: intertwined branches, flowers, eyes, hands, mouths and symbols combine into a contemporary floral totem that, through a simple language, expresses welcome, listening, diversity and balance.

At the top of the sculpture, the word “respect” serves as an epigraph and a mantra, repeated down to the base, inviting greater attention to what surrounds us—an appeal to follow this principle as a way of life.

An extensive volume with a critical essay by Gianluca Ranzi, published by Dario Cimorelli Editore, accompanies the exhibition.

Biographical notes. Artist, fashion designer, art director and author, Stefano Chiassai trained at the Art Institute of Florence. In 1980 he created his brand “Stefano Chiassai”; in 1987 his vision of fashion represented Italian style at the Youth Biennale in Barcelona; from 1988 to 2000 he taught Menswear Fashion Design at Polimoda in Florence. In 1995, together with his wife Alessandra Dall’Anese, he founded “SCS Studio Chiassai.” From the early 2000s he designed several international menswear lines, engaging in a dialogue grounded in an aesthetic that merges artisanal tradition and new technologies. From 2009, also thanks to the support of his team, he became the designer of the “Fendi Menswear” line. Over time, the Tuscan artist has collected 20,000 vintage garments, now housed at “TheCube Archive,” a meeting place for designers, artists, musicians, students and creatives eager to engage in dialogue.

Among the most prestigious and recent exhibitions in public spaces are: Galleria Comunale d’Arte Contemporanea, Arezzo, 2022; ADI Museum, Milan, 2023; MAD Murate Art District, Florence, 2023; Museo del Tessuto, Prato, 2025.

Important publications accompany Chiassai’s numerous activities, including books published by Silvana Editoriale and Dario Cimorelli Editore.

Si ringrazia per il contributo

INTESA  **SANPAOLO**

Exhibition details

Title “Stefano Chiassai. Incantamento”

Curated by Gianluca Ranzi

Exhibition Project Manager Alessandra Chiassai Dall’Anese

Venue Complesso di Sant’Agostino, Via Sant’Agostino, 1 – Pietrasanta (Lucca)

Dates 26 October 2025 – 8 February 2026

Opening Saturday 25 October, h. 6 p.m.

Hours Tuesday–Friday 4:00–7:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am–1:00 pm / 4:00–7:00 pm

Free entry

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