

Council of Milan
Culture and Entertainment Department

OSVALDO LICINI
Palazzo Reale
24 June - 2 October 1994

The Culture and Entertainment Department of the Council of Milan presents Osvaldo Licini's painting, a retrospective for the Centennial of the great master's birth (who comes from the Marches Region) at Palazzo Reale from 24 June to 2 October 1994.

The exhibition gathers about 90 works, essential for the artistic career of Licini, central character of the Italian art scene of the first half of the Twentieth Century.

From 'Autoritratto/Self-portrait', donated to Giorgio Morandi in 1914, there are on display rare futurist paintings, the canvases from the French years, which are influenced by Matisse and Braque, the abstract masterpieces of the years of the Il Milione Gallery, as well as the 'Amalassunta' and the rebel Angels of the postwar period.

After a figurative experience and once he abandoned every realist and twentieth-century feature, Licini completely devoted himself to abstract art, a period which includes him in the multi-coloured Milanese cultural world of the '30s-'40s, a period full of new elements and unrest. He is one of the main painters of the "Il Milione" Gallery of Milan together with artists like Melotti, Fontana, Veronesi, Reggiani, Soldati. "We are abstract artists because we believe that classicism, romanticism, realism, etc... are closed series and it is moot to go back to them. Art changes and rejuvenates itself, strictly following the unstoppable evolution of the spirit which never goes back. We took the occasion here to mention that painting is the art of colours and signs. The signs convey strength, will, ideas. The colours convey the magic. We said symbols not dreams". With these words Osvaldo Licini, one of the first supporters of Italian Abstract art together with Soldati and Reggiani, defines the moral and poetical terms of his joining this movement which will make him renowned.

The exhibition is thus an extraordinary occasion for getting to know more in depth the masterpieces by Licini and, through them, the artistic and cultural movements which allowed Italian art to compete with the European avantgardes.

The exhibition is dedicated to Licini and set up on the ground floor of Palazzo Reale. After the events dedicated to Malevic and Varlin, the cultural program desired by the Council of Milan continues: they want to make the Milanese public (and more) to know the great Masters of the Twentieth Century, with specifically selected authors and works.

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