

L'Avanguardia Russa e Kazimir Malevič/The Russian Avantgarde and Kazimir Malevič

This wide retrospective dedicated to Kazimir Malevič (Kiev 1878 – Leningrad 1935) allows the Italian public to approach for the first time the masterpieces of the Russian Museums until now not very known to the Western audience. What makes the exhibition unique - beyond the substantial number of his canvases on display - is the extent of the creative period that it represents, from 1900 to 1933, essentially covering the whole artistic journey of Malevič.

With its usual generosity the Russian State Museum of St. Petersburg, which preserves more than a hundred canvases by this artist and has cooperated with rare efficiency and competence to the set up of the retrospective, selected for the exhibition the best of its collection: more than 60 works, each one of them extraordinary in significance and quality. Because of the alternate life experiences of Malevič (who, unlike his fellow countrymen and peers, among which there are Chagall and Kandinskij, had spent his life in Russia, dying in the darkest years of Stalin's reign of terror), the collection from St. Petersburg is made up of works representative of the whole artistic career of Malevič, which differs from any other collection.

For these reasons the Milanese retrospective can be defined as a unique event for the exceptionality in presenting essential works by Malevič - so far unknown to critics and the public -, canvases faithfully representing the whole artistic development of the artist.

In the catalogue of the exhibition (with critical essays by Carandente, Petrova, Basner, Mislser and Bowlt) published by Artificio, next to a piece from the theoretical writings by Malevič, there is the first translation into Italian of the work *Vittoria sul Sole/Victory on the Sun*, which fills the big gap in the knowledge of the poetic work by the Russian avantgardes and places again the works and the art by Malevič in that background where they were born. Thanks to the retrospective the aim of this publishing effort is to find the way to broaden to the maximum the meaning of an overall cultural operation, combining the exhibition of art works and the original instruments to understand their peculiar meaning and importance.