

BURRI

18 November 2001 – 7 January 2002
Chiostrri of San Domenico, via Dante Alighieri 11 Reggio Emilia, Italy

Press preview Friday 16 November at 11.00 am
Grand Opening Saturday 17 November at 5.00 pm

More than one hundred works illustrate the artistic exhibition "Burri", promoted by the Council of Reggio Emilia - Musei Civici and the Burri Foundation, and it is housed in the halls of Chiostrri of San Domenico in Reggio Emilia from 18 November 2001 to 7 January 2002.

Curated by **Maurizio Cavesi** and **Chiara Sarteanesi** the exhibition offers a wide panorama of Burri's intense activity from his early works in the '50s to 1994, the year before the artist's death, through many **large-scale** works created with several techniques and materials: from *sacks* to *wood, iron, plastic, combustions, cellotex*, up to the last creation of *Cretti and Gold* which was presented to the public only in June 2000 by the Burri Foundation on the occasion of the exhibition of never seen before works of the Master.

The exhibition also includes a substantial group of **multiple works**, many partially created with traditional techniques (engravings - etchings, aquatints - lithographs, serigraphs, serigraphs) in part directly by the artist, like the most recent *Multiplex* of 1981 and *Monotex* of 1993, in which Burri eliminates the need for a printer personally assembling the cardboards and thus obtaining an uneven surface, otherwise not achievable with the techniques usually used in graphics. For the first time **the books of the artist** are displayed together, in a limited edition, with original artworks and graphics that show one of the different aspects of the artistic career of Burri.

The works, all from Città di Castello, from the Foundation desired and created by Alberto Burri in his hometown, allow a wide reflection on the meanings of contemporary art and the artistic world of the master.

The path starts from the Sala del Brolo with the works of the early fifties including the *Sacchi/sacks*, the two works *Rosso/red* and *Nero SC3/Black SC3* that show the parallel research on colour; and the *Gobbo/hunchback* of 1953 characterized by bumps obtained by inserting metal elements between the frame and the canvas.

All the large sized works exposed in the Mascalcia present the results of the research of the artist in the sixties and witness the introduction of new materials - wood, iron, plastic - and the use of a new technique, the combustion. The Sala delle Carrozze documents the artistic path of Burri from the mid seventies, through the cycles of paintings of the *Cretti/cracks* and of the Cellotex. In *Cretti e Oro/Cracks* and *Gold* the surface is fragmented: the control of the size of the *crettatura/crack* is determined by the amount of the kaolin that produces splits according to a precise pattern of the artist. In the Cellotex his experimental will concentrates on a particular material (usually used to create insulation boards) that gets turned into painting, in some cases processing the surface and making it rugged, in other cases through engravings. In the works of his last cycle, *Cretto e Oro/Crack* and *Gold*, Burri reconnects to the tradition of the Byzantine and Renaissance gold background, and at the same time creates the latest linguistic innovation.

In the Atrio in the Sala delle Colonne and in its two Galleries the exhibition of graphic works and books allows the audience to simultaneously follow the stylistic path of the artist.

In the 80s colour comes back: the cycle *Sestante*/sextant, represented in the exhibition by the file of the same name containing 16 serigraphs, is the result of some of the endless combinations of forms and colours. The *Combustioni*/combustions, created through the techniques of etching and aquatint, show the extraordinary upset of the traditional artistic language conducted by the artist. Along the way the visitor is continuously accompanied by some **blow-up images** of Burri while the artist works, portrayed by the photographer and friend Aurelio Amendola.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue curated by Chiara Sarteanesi, published by Petruzzi, Città di Castello, with critical texts by **Maurizio Calvesi, Chiara Sarteanesi, Giuliano Serafini, Italo Tomassoni** and photographs by **Aurelio Amendola**. The same publisher printed the majority of Burri's catalogues under the supervision of the artist, including the omnibus "*Contributi al catalogo sistematico*/contributions to the systematic catalogue" in 1990.

Meaningful side events accompany the exhibition, that is conferences, discussions and an original educational project, in cooperation with Reggio Children and Re Mida, which allows students in schools to meet and experience the art of Alberto Burri, one of the main artistic examples of the 20th Century.

The exhibition has been entirely carried out thanks to the contribution of: **Coopsette, Esselunga, ACI Reggio Emilia**
Coordination: Esagramma s.r.l.

Thursday 29 November 2001 at 18.00 – **Maurizio Calvesi**, Conference "Alberto Burri" - Teatro Municipale Valli – Sala degli Specchi – Reggio Emilia - Italy

Info Musei Civici Tel. 0522.456477