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**Sala d'Ercole di Palazzo d'Accursio
Comune di Bologna**
Piazza Maggiore 6 - Bologna

**Domenica Regazzoni
Lucio Dalla
a 4 mani**

curated by Silvia Evangelisti

**3 - 19 March 2020
Closure extended to May 29th**

press release, 02.03.2020

The evocative exhibition “Domenica Regazzoni Lucio Dalla a 4 mani”, dedicated to Regazzoni’s great friend Lucio Dalla, will be held in Bologna at the Sala d'Ercole in Palazzo d'Accursio, located in Piazza Maggiore, from 28 February to 19 March 2020. Curated by Silvia Evangelisti, the exhibition will present a selection of thirty works by Domenica Regazzoni, most of which have never been shown before.

Organised in collaboration with the Municipality of Bologna and Fondazione Lucio Dalla, the exhibition centres on the close relationship between art and music, a constant feature of Regazzoni’s work. The show’s title, based on a comment by Dalla, expresses the deep and lasting bond between Regazzini and the unforgettable Bolognese singer-songwriter, whom she has chosen to commemorate symbolically during the period of the year in which he was born and died (4 March 1943–1 March 2012).

The works on show, created between 1998 and 2019, are a reflection on canvas of the emotions aroused by the lyrics of Lucio Dalla, her long-time friend. Fourteen songs were chosen to inspire the works (and their titles), among them Henna, Com'è profondo il mare, Milano, Scusa, Cosa sarà, and L'ultima luna. In the tranquil, immersive intimacy of the exhibition installation, brief lines from the songs can be read at the bottom of the display panels, creating a total, interwoven artistic experience of light, sound, colour and words.

Visitors are drawn into the uninterrupted dialogue between the images, lyrics, and also music that fills the room, a true exhibition soundtrack in the form of an original arrangement created by Lucio Dalla and Cesare Regazzoni, the artist’s brother, of the songs Nun parlà and Occhi Chiusi, the latter written by Dalla for Gianni Morandi.

The materiality of the works on display is immediately striking: jute, gesso and oil colours are the stylistic characteristics of this collection and reveal the artist’s years of experimentation with sculpture, begun in 2003 in memory of her father, a master violin maker, who had died a few years earlier.

The results are powerful lyrical creations, such as Caruso (2019, oil on canvas and collage, 150x120 cm) inspired by the lines ‘but when he saw the moon slide from behind a cloud / even

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death seemed sweet' from the famous 1986 song of the same name, universally recognised as one of the masterpieces of contemporary music with nine million copies sold worldwide in dozens of versions and with a memorable interpretation by Luciano Pavarotti; or *Le rondini* [Swallows] (2000, pastel on canvas, 125x135 cm), whose gentle colours seem to capture the call 'To fly and fly with the dust of dreams' from Dalla's 1999 song.

Beside these are works with a more pronounced materiality, where strong and solid 'fragments of the world' reflect the words from which they originate. These include *Amen* (1998, mixed media on canvas, 61.5x30 cm) with the lines: 'that piece of my heart which / is still there... there with me / and now and then beats without a reason' from the 1992 tour album; or *Notte* (2000, mixed media on canvas, 121x113 cm), 'hard to chew to pieces with your teeth / to spit night' from a song written in 1971 but only recorded in 2011 in the major collection *Questo è Amore*; and again the painting/sculpture *Ciao* (2016, assemblage, 63x63 cm) in which a hand and a foot connected by a chain visually represent the words 'over there someone's dying / someone else is being born' from the single that gave its name to the 1999 album.

Subjects range from the vaguely figurative *Là* (2001, oil on canvas, 80x80 cm) in which the idea of a star is suggested by 'far from everything / on a bright star', to the purely abstract *Baggio Baggio* (2019, mixed media, 95x95 cm), a blaze of orange, blue, white, gold and ochre, though derived from the image 'the sky is black and you are there alone / inside you... there is something and we don't know what it is... / it's the soul', from the song dedicated to Bologna Football Club's top player in the 1997/98 season – Dalla was a huge fan of the team. (The song, from the album *Luna Matana*, was co-written by Cesare Regazzoni).

'They are amazing paintings, they reveal nuances in my tracks that I didn't know myself. They add meaning and complete my songs', said Lucio Dalla in an interview from 2000. In conclusion, Domenica Regazzoni's paintings reveal 'landscapes inspired by the words of his songs' commented curator Silvia Evangelisti, a witness since 2001 to the bond between the artist and musician, the year in which Lucio himself enthusiastically introduced her to Domenica's art. Whether scenarios are identifiable in the compositions or only mentally intuitable, all arise from an 'inner pictorial meditation, because the songs – by Dalla – touch the deepest chords of existence', claims the artist herself, who seems to express in her artworks all of the composer-musician-singer-actor and director's love of art and beauty.

The exhibition itinerary ends with a short film of interview clips in which Dalla himself speaks warmly of his deep friendship with Regazzoni.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue compiled with MR Fine Art of Milan, the gallery that handles Domenica Regazzoni's work, and includes an unpublished interview between Silvia Evangelisti and the artist.

Biographical notes

Domenica Regazzoni was born in Valsassina in 1953. She began painting in the early 1970s when she attended the Brera Academy in Milan, and in 1992 she illustrated *Canto Segreto* [Secret Song] a collection of poems by Antonia Pozzi for Vanni Scheiwiller's series *All'insegna del pesce d'oro*. In 1997 she was among the artists selected for the international course *Libero blu*, organised by Galleria Blu in Milan.

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Later, the poetic songs of Mogol and Lucio Dalla inspired the exhibitions *Colore Incanto* and *Regazzoni&Dalla*. Between 1997 and 2001 she exhibited in Tokyo, Japan, and in numerous Italian cities, including Milan, (Fondazione Stelline); Rome, (Complesso del Vittoriano); and Bologna (former Church of San Mattia), events in which Dalla took an active part.

In 2000 she returned to Tokyo to present a solo show inspired by the Haiku poetry published by Viennepierre.

In the same period, following the death of her father, the celebrated Lombardy violin maker Dante Regazzoni, she held the exhibition *From Wood to Sound*, curated by Gillo Dorfles and inspired by the art of violin making. Numerous exhibitions followed in Italy and abroad in prestigious public and private venues. Over the years she began to make engravings, and for a long period frequented Giorgio Upiglio's printing house.

In 2009 her large bronze sculpture *The Broken Violin* was permanently installed in Coltea Park in the University of Bucharest's main square. In 2012 she exhibited in Milan with the renowned photographer Gabriele Basilico. During Milan Expoincittà in 2015, she exhibited at the Palazzo della Permanente with Chinese engraver Lu Zhiping, in a collaboration with the China Pavilion. In 2017 she took part in the Rome Triennale.

www.regazzoni.net

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Exhibition Details

Title Domenica Regazzoni Lucio Dalla a 4 mani

Curated by Silvia Evangelisti

Venue Sala d'Ercole di Palazzo d'Accursio, Comune di Bologna, Piazza Maggiore 6, Bologna

Dates 3 - 19 March 2020

Closure extended to May 29th

Opening Hours from Tuesday to Sunday h 10am-6.30pm | Friday h 2.30pm-6.30pm | closed Monday

Entrance free

Catalogue in exhibition in collaboration with MR Fine Art

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