

Council of Città di Castello

PISTOLETTO – Codice Inverso/Inverse code

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| Duration | 8 April – 9 June 2001 |
| Venue | Città di Castello (Perugia): City Hall – Palazzo Vitelli alla Cannoniera – Council Art Gallery (Pinacoteca Comunale), Palazzo Vitelli a Sant'Egidio – Oratorio degli Angeli – Pozzo della Rotonda – Palazzo del Podestà |
| Opening hours | 10am-1pm / 2.30pm-6.30pm. Closed Mondays. |
| Entrance fee | full Lit.8.000, reduced Lit.5.000 - ticket office at the City Hall (start of the itinerary) |

It is available upon request the *Carta Musei/Museums card* which allows the visitor the admission to four museums of Città di Castello at a reduced price: the Council Art Gallery, the Cathedral Museum, the Umbrian Textile Manufacturing Collection, the Documents Centre of Popular Traditions.

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| Press conference | Saturday, 7 April at 4pm, Council Art Gallery |
| Grand opening | Saturday, 7 April at 6pm |
| With the patronage of | Umbria Region Province of Perugia |

From 8 April to 9 June the exhibition “**Pistoletto – Codice Inverso/Pistoletto - Inverse code**”, promoted and organized by the Council of Città di Castello with the support of the Palazzo Albizzini Foundation – Burri Collection, will be set-up like an itinerary within the historical structure of the city, and offer a new interpretation of some of the monumental sites through the exhibition of works made between the Sixties and today.

The exhibition, curated by Giuliano Serafini, presents - through majestic installations, sculptures, mirror paintings, sound systems and evocative signs - Pistoletto's artistic work, which suggests tracks, analogies and dissonances between the art of yesterday and that of today, questioning the historical-environmental structure to allow the visitor an evaluation according to a broadened perspective.

The itinerary is divided into six different “stations”, which is the number of places selected by the artist to set-up the various works. Each space must be considered as “time”, keeping in mind that the subject of the itinerary is history, the meanings and contents of which Pistoletto once again shows the inversion as the title “Codice Inverso/Inverse code” suggests. The artist states: “when I work with the dimension of time it is difficult to find me where I am expected. It is for this reason that I have invented the theory of the ‘lateral’ step...”.

In rejecting the uniqueness of the art-value Pistoletto has selected for Città di Castello a series of works considering the metaphorical value of the different locations where they will be placed. From the “laic” **Venere degli stracci/Venus of the rags**, set in the entrance hall of the gothic *City Hall*, historical venue of civil authority, defined in the catalogue by the curator “Spazio del Capitano/Captain's space”, to the **Quadri Specchianti/Mirror Paintings**, the **Gabbie a specchio/ Mirror cages**, the **Metro Cubo di Infinito/Cubic Metre of the Infinite** and the **Tavole della Legge/Tablets of the Law** of the Renaissance *Palazzo Vitelli alla Cannoniera* which hosts the *Council Art Gallery*: here, in the “Spazio dell'Arte/Art's Space” by definition, the ambiguity of the reflected image finds itself logically compared to the very concept of art, meant as double, imitation and falsification. Then there is the “Spazio del Vescovo/Bishop's Space”, the Baroque *Oratorio degli Angeli*, where **L'Urlo della Lupa/The Cry of the She-Wolf**, a sound installation which reproduces the sounds and noises of Rome, sinks us into a sort of psychic abyss; then the exhibition continues with a monumental polyurethane sculpture **Alter Ego**, once again a sign of inconsistency with the location where it is placed, which is the porch of *Palazzo Vitelli a Sant'Egidio*, the “Spazio del Principe/Prince's Space”, the poetic background of a declining humanism. The ancient *Pozzo della Rotonda*, where Pistoletto sets **Autoritratto di stelle/Self-Portrait of stars**, evocatively reminds us of an initiation ceremony, which is of self-awareness, of Heraclitus' descent-ascent, according to

which “the way up and down is one and the same”: we are at the “Spazio dell’identità/Identity Space”.

Three videos placed in *Palazzo del Podestà* document three different moments of Pistoletto's work, among which the one regarding his solo exhibition at the Museum of Lucerne in 2000.

Michelangelo Pistoletto, one of the main figures of Italian and world art in the last forty years, is one of the most clever interpreters of the great avantgarde movements, from Pop Art to Poor Art, to theatrical performances and installations within the environment. His work can be summed up in a wide and “open” creative programme where different artistic, conceptual, social and pedagogical disciplines converge: “Progetto Arte/Project Art”.

In his long and very intense artistic career, Pistoletto, who has also been professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, took part in the most important international events (Biennale of Venice, Documenta in Kassel, Biennale of Sao Paolo) and has also held many solo exhibitions in the main museums such as: Palais des Beaux-Arts in Bruxelles, Palazzo Grassi in Venice, National Gallery in Berlin, Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, Forte del Belvedere in Florence, Capodimonte Museum in Naples, National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome, etc.

His works can also be found in the main public and private collections of the world.

Promoted, organized and with the patronage of the Council of Città di Castello and the support of the Palazzo Albizzini Foundation – Collezione Burri, the exhibition thus becomes the ideal but also natural expansion of the message of art and culture left by the great Umbrian artist.

On the occasion a bilingual catalogue, which also covers the historical works by Pistoletto, is published by the Council of Città di Castello, curated by Giuliano Serafini, with texts by Michelangelo Pistoletto and Giuliano Serafini, and photographs of the settings by Aurelio Amendola.

Info to the public and bookings:

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