

Alberto Burri. Opere Scelte 1948-1993 / Chosen Works 1948-1993

Curated by *Francesco Poli*

Mazzoleni Gallery (ex Nuova Gissi) - Turin
18 October 2003 - 15 January 2004

Like every year in October the **Mazzoleni Gallery (ex Nuova Gissi Gallery)** launches the exhibition season with an important historical retrospective: **Alberto Burri. Opere Scelte 1948-1993 / Chosen works 1948–1993** curated by Francesco Poli.

There are about fifty works on show, through which it is possible to retrace all the different phases of the research and the several techniques that Alberto Burri used from 1948 to 1993: from oil painting, from *sacchi* (sacks) to *combustioni* (combustions), from *legni* (woods) to *ferri* (irons), from *plastiche* (plastics) to *cretti* (cracks), up to the *cellotex*.

For the first time on public display are eight **never seen before** works: a series of “black and gold” cellotex of big sizes (109,5x164,5cm) made by Burri in 1993.

Among the works on show there are three wonderful “Sacchi”, two powerful “Ferri”, two big “Plastiche”, red for the dramatic tension, some “Combustioni”, and several “Cretti” and “Cellotex” of different sizes.

Francesco Poli says: “the effect that the entire works of Burri produce together is fascinating due to the formal structure of the constant elements, even in the diversity of the materials and the composition schemes. A complex logic of spatial scanning clearly emerges, organized through the juxtaposition of wide surfaces defined by quite regular borders. The result is a peculiar feeling of unstable equilibrium and suspense that, so to speak, transforms the rough material of hessian sacks, metal, wood, plastic in specifically pictorial matter, as much as coats of white, black or red, that in many works apply as counterpoint or background. It is a refined sublimation of materials inside the scenic space of painting. The presence of worn out materials - the lacerations, combustions, red “wounds” – have legitimized all kinds of interpretation as an intensely existentialist metaphor. On the other hand, the work setting in formal classic style allows an esthetic evaluation without the over conditioning applications”.

In 1991 Burri disputed critics, reckoning that they have always given too much importance to the expressiveness of matter and less to the quality of form. According to Burri the materials he used have the same function as paint and he states that: “when a painting is right, it is balance, structure, rhythm, light”.

After the exhibitions dedicated to Felice Casorati, Giorgio de Chirico and Alberto Savinio, Afro, and Enrico Baj, the Mazzoleni Gallery (ex Nuova Gissi Gallery) proposes this exceptional display of works by Alberto Burri. For a private gallery it is an extraordinary event to be able to present an exhibition so in-depth on the work of the Master.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue with the colour reproductions of all the works on display and a critic text by Francesco Poli.

Thanks to the **Foundation Palazzo Albizzini Burri Collection** for providing the photographs and bibliography.

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