

Ruggero Savinio. Momenti nel tempo 1980 - 1992/ Ruggero Savinio. Moments in time 1980 - 1992

curated by Nicoletta Pallini

Credito Valtellinese Gallery, Valtellinese History and Art Museum - Sondrio

20 February 2004 - 24 April 2004

The exhibition **Ruggero Savinio. Momenti nel tempo 1980-1992/Ruggero Savinio. Moments in time 1980-1992**, curated by Nicoletta Pallini and coordinated by a committee made up of Giovanni Quadrio Curzio, Fernando Giancesini, Paolo Baldacci and Roberto Baravalle, is set up in Sondrio in two venues: at the **Credito Valtellinese Gallery** and at the **Valtellinese History and Art Museum, Palazzo Sassi de' Lavizzari**, from **20 February to 24 April 2004**. The exhibition places side by side a selection of more than sixty works of which around forty are on canvas and about twenty on paper, made by Ruggero Savinio in the 1980s, in a particularly meaningful period of his painting career.

In his paintings on canvas and velvet and in the works on paper, among crayons, drawings and mixed techniques made between 1980 and 1992, what emerges are in fact the concepts of "time" and "memory", which are themes central to the painting of Savinio, which at best represent the essentiality of his research and, yesterday as well as today, chase each other like a sort of "Leitmotiv" of his painter's being. In the year of his 70th birthday, this collection aims at retracing and focusing again on the peculiarity of his art. The works come from the most important Italian private collections; among these pieces many are exhibited to the public for the first time, while others resurface after many years. The selected works retrace step by step Savinio's long journey, who as a lonely narrator went his own way outside the guidelines imposed by the artistic currents contemporary to him, carving out his own painting "place", independent, stand-alone and completely personal.

Among the paintings on display there are many masterpieces that mark the meaningful steps of Savinio's artistic career, such as "Musa e Ninfa/Muse and Nymph" from the early 1980s, "Empedocles" of 1982, the series "Rovine degli anni 1982/1987/Ruins of the years 1982/1987", "La morte di Adone/Death of Adonis" of 1986, the themes of "Paesaggi/Landscapes" and "Conversazioni/Conversations". All his works are rich in references to the classical era, the myth, the poetry, the literature and, like in the ancient paintings, the main characters talk and mingle with nature. Among the rare pieces it is worth mentioning a never seen before male portrait of large size, "Ritratto di Paolo Baldacci/Portrait of Paolo Baldacci"; a poetical crayon work of 1980 and some drawings, often preparatory studies of famous paintings on display.

The exhibition ends with the last paintings of the late 1980s, when Savinio's painting revolves around a new relationship, more intimate and private, such as for example in "La Molla/The Coil" and "Il grande Aparte/The great Apart", creating a sort of familiar novel which will later take him to new stars, spaces and encounters and the "Nuove Conversazioni/New Conversations".

A **catalogue**, published by the **Credito Valtellinese Foundation**, accompanies the exhibition, including the colour reproductions of all the works on display and critic texts by Nicoletta Pallini, Roberto Baravalle and Paolo Baldacci, as well as a direct testimonial by Ruggero Savinio and the interview the artist had with Nicoletta Pallini.