

# **Ottone Rosai. Dalla stagione futurista agli anni maturi/ Ottone Rosai. From the futurist season to the late years**

curated by Stefano De Rosa  
National Museums of Naïves Arts - Luzzara (RE)  
24 May 2004 - 4 July 2004

In the restored rooms of the 15th-century former Augustinian Monastery, now National Museum of Naïves Arts, the exhibition "Ottone Rosai. Dalla stagione futurista agli anni maturi/Ottone Rosai. From the futurist season to the late years" is displayed, curated by Stefano De Rosa. The event is promoted by the Un Paese Foundation and the Council of Luzzara, in co-operation with the Council of Fiesole and Fiesole Museums.

On display there are about 40 works divided into oils and drawings, which show Rosai's whole artistic career, from the futurist period to his late years. In his works Ottone Rosai, "painter and futurist soldier", as he signed himself in one of his drawings, shapes modernity and proves that it is possible to preserve a distant memory, painting a humble and ordinary mankind, charged with a silent expressive potential. His painting carries the social anger that refutes every kind of critical label or academic formula, and finds in futurism a channel to express itself and recover the local and national tradition. Like during the war, Rosai fights fearless and faces death bluntly, as it is self-evident in his canvases where the military life becomes the protagonist; in a period of peace, instead, his art is enriched with irony and warmth. Explanatory of the postwar period are some paintings where nature takes on the fundamental role for rest, a break from the sorrows and wish for calmness, thus becoming refuge and shelter from any sort of emotional pressure. In the late period when he leaves behind the city and its frenetic life in order to withdraw into secluded places, his paintings mostly depict nudes and self-portraits and investigate the male body transforming the subjects in real masks of sorrow. During this period he doesn't portray models, but rather reinterprets them. In a constant search for a balance in life and art, Rosai has never stopped thinking and acting as a painter, becoming the testimonial of "an art made of poetry and dream", as per the curator Stefano De Rosa's words, an art that investigates the inner universe of silent gestures and reminds us of life in its daily routines.

The Un Paese Foundation - active in planning exhibitions, educational activities and cultural events - is a new institutional presence which the Council of Luzzara entrusted with the management of the exhibitions and the cultural heritage of the National Museum of Naïves Arts.

The exhibition is accompanied by an educational part meant for children from nursery and elementary schools, with guided tours followed by painting activities. The exhibition is also accompanied by a catalogue published by the Un Paese Foundation, with texts by Stefano De Rosa and a preface by Vanni Marchetti, with the images of all the works.