

Omaggio a Giulio Turcato/Homage to Giulio Turcato

curated by Alberto Fiz

Mazzoleni Gallery (ex Nuova Gissi) - Turin

7 October 2005 - 31 December 2005

The exhibition 'Omaggio a Giulio Turcato/Homage to Giulio Turcato', which Mazzoleni Arte Moderna launches on Friday, 7 October 2005, is dedicated to one of the most significant interpreters of abstract art.

The exhibition, curated by Alberto Fiz, pays homage to the artist 10 years after his death.

It is a thorough show with more than 80 works from 1948 to 1992, in a set-up that wholly explores the intense artistic career of Turcato. After the wide retrospective dedicated to Renato Guttuso's works, the Turin Gallery continues its work intended to highlight the important phases of the Italian art in the European context.

As a founder of the group Forma 1 together with Consagra, Dorazio, Guerrini and Sanfilippo, a group active within the New Front of Arts, a protagonist of the group of The Eight, Turcato is one of the most significant interpreters of the abstract art trend.

He started from Giacomo Balla's teachings, the artist from Mantova but from Rome by adoption, and he was able to impose his own rhythmic and dynamic language, making of form-colour the base of a research that goes beyond informal art. "Turcato is an extraordinary explorer who made of painting the code to interpret the world in all its aspects, from biology to astronomy up to entomology. Everything becomes the occasion for new interpretations of forms and colours which redefine imagination", Alberto Fiz writes in the catalogue.

The exhibition presents some of the strongholds of Turcato's research such as 'Rivolta/Revolt' of 1949, already presented at the City Gallery of Munich in 1985, or 'Comizio/Rally' still of 1949, a very well-known subject, which is ascribable to his social and political commitment. The 'Comizio/Rally', of which a big canvas is part of the permanent collection of the Council Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art of Rome, represents the crowd in a complete abstract way with a series of red triangles which point to the sky.

"Indeed I see the 'Comizio/Rally' like this", stated Turcato, "it is a realistic enough painting; there are those kinds of red triangles which represent the red flags that are the crowd". But the historical testimonies on display are many, e.g. 'Via Margutta/Margutta Street' of 1948, 'Composizione rosso e grigio/Red and grey Composition' of 1953 and a mixed-media composition which isn't far away from the artistic research done in the same period by Alberto Burri, such as 'Il Lenzuolo di San Rocco/Saint Rocco's sheet' of 1958, from the well-known Franchetti Collection.

All together the exhibition allows the visitor to join the inner nomadism typical of Turcato who at Palazzo Panizza faced abstraction radically and unbiased, with determination and lyricism, never giving up experimentation.

Thus the 'Arcipelaghi/Archipelagoes' alternate with the 'Paesaggi lunari/Moon landscapes' and the 'Itinerari in gommapiuma/Itineraries in foam rubber' counterbalance the series of the 'Cangianti/Shimmerings' where colour becomes the protagonist of hypothetical music. "These images, feelings, materials, memories, delusions, illusions, forms, itineraries are my baggage opened at the customs of the next millennium", Turcato claims in a statement that could be read as a declaration of intent by an artist who carried out an essential task in freeing art from the scholarly conventions within an original and solitary journey. Ten years after his death it is, then, proper to reflect on the important and yet not completely understood legacy left by Turcato.

A catalogue published by Mazzoleni Arte Contemporanea completes the exhibition, with texts by Alberto Fiz.

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