

Poleschi Art Gallery

Milan, Italy

Crippa anni '50 e '60 Crippa '50s and '60s

curated by Tino Gipponi

27 October 2005 - 22 January 2006

This exhibition focuses on the most original moments of the artistic life of Roberto Crippa and it takes place at the Poleschi Gallery of Milan, from 27 October 2005 to 22 January 2006.

With about 30 works the show allows the audience to go deep into the artist's career, from his spazialist artistic vision of spirals to the following period of the poetics of the object, where the material element - cork and collage - gives his creations a particular substantiality.

Therefore it enabled masterpieces like the two oils on board called Geometrico/Geometrical of 1950 and the famous Spirali/Spirals, a series of oils on canvas created in 1952. With regards to these works Tino Gipponi writes in the catalogue: "his invention of 'spirals' unrolled in the gestures of astral scribbles of free swirls and ellipses, of hanks and tangles, shows the complete adherence to thesis of the Spatialism at the end of the '40s. The first works with 'buchi/holes' by Fontana are from 1949 and in the same period appear the 'concetti spaziali/spatial concepts' and the 'spirali/spirals' which later the author himself will define 'speeches in space' in one of his rare declarations of his own artistic point of view written on the occasion of his exhibition at the Naviglio Gallery of Milan in 1955".

The exhibition proceeds with his works that close the '50s and open to materiality: the cork collages on board like La palizzata/The palisade of 1959 and Personnage/Character of 1960, as well as many extraordinary works of mixed-media, from Rocce/Rocks of 1965 to Eclisse/Eclipse of 1966. In regards to these works Raffaele De Grada writes: "in front of these papers wounded by pieces of wood, of these totemic symbols of consumerism, of these woody cut characters [...] one cannot help but notice that an agitation that we use to call surreal came up in Crippa".

In the '60s the expression of the substance through the use of material techniques brings Crippa close to Burri, and it is Crippa himself that explains his own artistic path: "Burri does a technical and spatial research, but pure and abstract. Instead what interests me is something closer to us, more human. [...] I believe that my composition leans more to the symbol. It becomes the emblematic representation of the man of today".

The exhibition is accompanied by rare books and their precious illustrations, such as "La rondine Charlot/The swallow Charlot", dedicated to Charlie Chaplin with poems by Raffaele Carrieri, and "Air pour Roberto Crippa/Air for Roberto Crippa" by Robert Lebel, with colour lithographs by the artist, as well as small volumes by Alexandre Jolas, Arturo Schwartz and catalogues from the exhibitions of Crippa in public and private venues.

And finally, as a reminder of the friendship between the artist and some leading characters like Ungaretti, Tàpies, Dova, Minguzzi, Ballo and Barnard, one can admire some photographs portraying Crippa with his illustrious friends. A catalogue published by Poleschi with the introduction by Tino Gipponi completes the exhibition.

Press office: Irma Bianchi Comunicazione