

Casa Italia CONI – Vancouver

## **SPIRITO OLIMPICO ITALIANO CINQUE ARTISTI PER I 5 CERCHI**

*Curated by Renata Freccero*

12 - 28 February 2010

On the occasion of the XXI Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver 2010, CONI once again opened its doors to art from 12 to 28 February with the exhibition “Spirito Olimpico Italiano - educare alla contemporaneità delle culture e alla pace”, inspired by the meaning of the universality of humankind. Conceived and curated by Renata Freccero, with artistic direction by Silvana Belvisi, the exhibition includes a section entitled “Cinque artisti per i 5 cerchi”, presented by Angelo Mistrangelo.

Spirito Olimpico Italiano received the high Patronage of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers..

The exhibition presents works by 43 artists, each represented by a single piece, at Casa Italia CONI, the headquarters of the Italian athletes.

The section “Cinque artisti per i 5 cerchi” displays works created specifically for this occasion by Ennio Calabria, Antonio Carena, whose recent passing is remembered, Maria Cristina Carlini, Riccardo Cordero, and Riccardo Licata. Angelo Mistrangelo emphasizes: “the XXI Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver are an opportunity to present documents of a research that ranges from figurative pages expressing the athlete’s gesture to symbols of illuminating abstraction. Five artists, therefore, for the five rings. Five ‘panels’ to speak of a season rich in experimentation and materials. Five documents that tell of a poetic access to slopes, stadiums, venues where humanity measures itself, existence discovers the purest sensations and emotions, the dream becomes reality and reality becomes podium, struggle, defeat, hope, play, music, energy, encounter, vibration of words in rarefied atmospheres”.

Silvana Belvisi of the *Salotto dell’Arte* presents 38 artists and comments: “these works propose athletic harmonies, forms projected toward effective, victorious gesture, in the sign of universality, of the language of sport, of joy and peace”.

The artists are: Silvana Alasia, Luisa Albert, Branimir Antonov, Roberto Angiolillo, Cornelia Badelita, Francesco Argioli, Gianpiero Bonfantini, Ines Daniela Bertolino, Gianni Borta, Valeria Corvino, Antonietta Campilongo, Paola Delfino, Massimo Castronuovo, Donatella Di Maria, Liliana Cavigioli, Daniela Foschi, Anna Costantini, Ceylan Insel, Alfredo Di Bacco, Paolo Lantieri, Elena Ferrini, Isabella Monari, Simonetta Fontani, Consuelo Mura, Manuela Kanaris, Antonio Paradiso, Maurizio Magretti, Salvatore Pino, Guglielmo Meltzeid, Nicoletta Nava, Vanni Saltarelli, Alberto Scalas, Angiolo Pergolini, Davide Secci, Piero Rasero, Liliana Stefanutti, Benedetto Robazza, Antonio Tamburro.

Sydney 2000, Salt Lake City 2002, Athens 2004, Turin 2006, and Beijing 2008 welcomed the Olympic Games of the new millennium as a choral song of joy, an expression of a high promotion of universal civilization and a great opportunity for dialogue among peoples.

CONI President Giovanni Petrucci states: “sport, an essential dimension of education and culture, must develop aptitude, willpower, and self-mastery in every human being and promote full integration into society. The Italian National Olympic Committee is proud to host at Casa Italia an exhibition composed of works by artists who bring to the eyes of the entire world the simplicity and beauty of universal values. Both Sport and Art convey messages of peace and create a bond that unites people of every nationality, race, and social background.”

Within this context is placed the ideal of “Olympic Peace”, the Ekecheiria observed during the ancient Olympic Games and hoped for today. Ekecheiria means “truce”: raising hands from any

ongoing conflict in order to allow athletes, organizers, and spectators to participate in the Event with respect for competition, the Games, and humanity as a whole.

Renata Freccero states: “these are universal ideals valid for everyone and at all times, which can be summed up in a single expression: the Olympic Spirit. Meanings that are expressed in art dedicated to the Olympic Games, where the language of sport, like that of Art, becomes universal communication, through which everyone is able to understand one another, and where the spirit of the athlete merges with that of the artist. The pursuit of the ethical quality of life and the desire to express one’s physical and moral potential are the foundational elements of human dignity”.

Press Office

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