

Lucio Fontana ad Albissola. Albissola capitale della ceramica d'artista/Lucio Fontana in Albissola. Albissola, capital city of artist's ceramics.

curated by Philippe Daverio
7 exhibition venues - Albissola (SV)
9 July 2006 - 6 August 2006

Albissola becomes the summer setting of an important group exhibition which celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Circolo degli Artisti (Artists' Association) of Albissola, involving the whole city. The event will be launched in the presence of Philippe Daverio and pays homage to Lucio Fontana and the great artists of the past and the present who have worked with the Circolo, centre of arrival and cultural exchange for many artists from the national and international scenes.

Organized by the Circolo degli Artisti of Albissola, the exhibition was born in cooperation with the Foundation A. De Mari CA.RI.SA., the Liguria Region, the Province of Savona, the Council of Albissola Marina and Albisola Superiore.

From the seaside to the hills Albissola is livened up by this event which spreads in seven historical expository venues where the visitor can admire 25 artists on the theme of ceramics and terracotta. On display there are 150 works divided among sculptures, plates, vases, totems and installations which glorify the characteristics of Albissola and the importance of 50 enthusiastic years of work by the Circolo. For their extraordinary role as innovators in the fields of ceramics stand out the works by Lucio Fontana who arrived in Albissola - where he worked and found fame and success - from Argentina, by Asgern Jorn whose house has been transformed into a city museum, by Agenore Fabbri, Wilfredo Lam, Aligi Sassu and Ernesto Treccani who lived and successfully worked in this town of the Liguria Region. These are only some of the important characters thanks to whom this territory has become a place where art was born, from the exchange of ideas, where the inclinations and the desires of the "people" of Albissola come out: desires "of putting their hands in the ground, working it, shaping it, drawing and painting it".

Venues and artists: Circolo degli Artisti - Aurelio Caminati, Asgern Jorn, Wilfredo Lam; Comitato di Rigore Artistico - Milena Milani; Pagliaro Art Studio - Antonio Siri, Ernesto Treccani; Contemporary Art City Museum - Lucio Fontana, Giorgio Bonelli, Luigi Caldanzano, Lele Luzzati, Renata Minuto, Giorgio Moiso, Eliseo Salino, Sandro Soravia; Il Bostrico - Asgar Elde Balestrini; Contemporary Art Cultural Centre - Agenore Fabbri, Mario Rossello, Aligi Sassu; Sala "A. Fabbri" at Mosaico Liguria Foundation - Roberto Bertagnin, Adriano Bocca, Carlos Carlè, Gianni Celano Giannici, Sandro Lorenzini, Gian Paolo Parini, Antonio Sabatelli.

"During the same years of the French sculptural and surrealist experimentation, the Italian experimentation was created in Albissola - writes Philippe Daverio in the catalogue -. As it always happens here, it was in the Italian way: that is not starting from scratch but from an imaginary pre-existing basis of creativity which, in particular, was that of the wonderful eighteenth-century tradition of the luxury ceramics of Albissola, which were the household ceramics for the whole of Liguria. In the 1930s a tiny but determined part of people living in Italy took part in the avantgarde spark. In its desire for rebuilding the Universe, the Futurism had invented stylistic features and characteristics to redefine the pitcher and the coffee cup.

Tullio d'Albissola was the great minister who celebrated the rite for it, who was always in contact with Depero and Prampolini, who taught the others the way of seeing and the way of doing, who found the procedure in the foundations and finally made Albissola renowned world-wide. After him all the others followed. From Lucio Fontana with his vibrant and elaborate expressionist elements to Antonio Recalcati, eager existentialist, so driven by the desire of moving matter that he went beyond the cuts by Fontana towards the rift of earth. Many years have passed since then, the little Northern town on the Mediterranean Sea has become a great reference in the art world. A convergence point in every way. We will see".

Jean Blanchaert says: "The exhibitions organized in order to celebrate the 50th anniversary gathers the dreaming kings and queens by Emanuele Luzzati in the ancient light blue of Albissola, a very humorous woman with a fan and a Spanish-like costume, a multi-coloured king Charles who comes back from the war and other characters from the fantasy world of the Genovese artist. We then have by Giorgio Bonelli the vessels which travel across the plates like they were seas, more or less rough; the rib cages and the astronauts or the racing cars by Caminati; the thick musical vases that tell the story of Italy in a Steno-like way by Luigi Caldanano; the engraved cave art elements by Wilfredo Lam; the small models of big sculptures by Mario Rossello; the crazy expressionist colours of the North by Asgern Jorn; the big amphorae and the plates by Giorgio Moiso which pair up with Dino Maertens from Murano; the scorching suns by Antonio Siri; the beach-plates with horses by Aligi Sassu; the painting and graphic works by Antonio Sabatelli; the equestrian landscapes by Eliseo Salino; the paintings and structures by Renata Minuto; the poetical writing by Milena Milani and the women working in the rice fields by Ernesto Treccani which evoke the 8 hours work in the rice fields; the materic paintings by Asgar Elde; the two-coloured carousels by Roberto Bertagnin; the anatomical shapes by Agenore Fabbri and the divisionist bullfight by Lucio Fontana; the little theatres and urban buildings by Sandro Soravia; the white extraterrestrial faces by Adriano Bocca; the engobed and carved terracotta pieces by Gianni Celano Giannici; the monumental but small stones by Carlos Carlé; the woman with a lizard by Gianpaolo Parini and the jelly-fish puppets by Sandro Lorenzini".

On the occasion of this event a celebratory catalogue is published with an introductory essay by Philippe Daverio and several testimonials. The Circolo degli Artisti scheduled the creation of this meaningful exhibition to celebrate the artists from the past and present, looking at the future in order to give a possibility to the young people of all the world to feel the emotion of "getting their hands dirty" with their own land. The exhibition is made possible thanks to the support of: Unipol Assicurazioni, Mosaico Liguria Foundation, COOP Liguria.