

PASQUALE NINÌ SANTORO

r a c c o n t o

The graphic work 1957-2014

Roma, Palazzo Poli, via Poli 54 (Fontana di Trevi)

28 May - 13 July 2014

Press preview 28 May at noon

Opening 28 May at 6 pm

The Istituto nazionale per la grafica brings to the attention of the public and Critics the wide production by Pasquale Santoro who since the end of the 1950's devoted himself to artistic research through the language of etching and sculpturing.

A great experimenter in the graphic field, Santoro is considered the Italian interpreter who is closest to **Stanley William Hayter** and to the *Atelier 17* experience, a studio attended in Paris by the end of the 1950's. A master of colour and the method of printing with only one matrix etched on more levels of depth, Santoro made etchings in black and white characterized by dense layering of signs or by dynamic lines which recall the minimalist shapes of his sober and elegant sculptures.

The exhibition assembles a selection of 50 graphic works and three sculptures that illustrate Santoro's artistic evolution: from early works realized in Paris at the *Atelier 17* to colour xylographies printed from industrial section bars at the Renzo Romero's Stamperia in the 1960's to the well-known series of *Cielo del Piranesi* dated 1977-78; a bold reinterpretation of the Venetian artist's themes realized in the historical Stamperia of the Calcografia on the occasion of the Piranesi celebrations convened by Carlo Bertelli for the bicentenary of his death. Also on display are the papers dedicated to Čajkovskij and Eliot and the latest wood engravings dated 2014, printed once more in the Stamperia of the Istitute and dedicated to the cathedrals wounded by the earthquake in Abruzzo in 2009.

The exhibition and the catalogue, curated by Ginevra Mariani and Antonella Renzitti present the matrices and the prints Santoro has donated to the Istituto nazionale per la grafica. In addition, for the first time the artist's entire graphic production since 1957 is in the catalogue. The initiative has been realized with the support of the Direzione generale per il paesaggio, l'arte e l'architettura contemporanee-Servizio V.

In the catalogue essays by: Maria Antonella Fusco, Carlo Bertelli, Stefano Gallo, Antonella Renzitti, Giuseppe Appella, Ginevra Mariani.

Biography

Pasquale Nini Santoro was born in Ferrandina-in 1933; sculptor, painter, etcher and ceramist, he is one of the protagonists of Italian abstract art. In the 1950's he lived and worked in Rome as he had moved there to study

medicine, which he gave up to follow his artistic path. At the end of the 1950's he moved to Paris together with Giulio Carlo Argan and Giuseppe Ungaretti where he attended Stanley William Hayter's (London 1901-Paris 1988) Atelier17. An experience that during those years and in that international studio has left an incisive sign in the artist's life and career . Once back in Rome in 1962 he became the founder of Gruppo Uno with Biggi, Carrino, Frascà, Pace and Uncini. They proposed to move on from the informal trends with open and systematic research about the linguistic components of making art. These were years of intense work always supported by social and political issues. In the 1970's he worked with Carlo Bertelli at the Istituto nazionale per la grafica established in 1975. His research evolved in the last decades of the Twentieth century towards analysis enriched by more introspective notes which are about his roots in Lucania as well as his personal life. He took part in various International exhibitions amongst which the Biennale di Venezia in 1962, the 7th Biennale d'Arte Moderna in San Paolo of Brasil in 1963, the International biennial exhibition of prints in Tokyo in 1964, and in the 5th Biennial in Paris. In Italy he joined several exhibitions amongst which those curated by Nello Ponente, Maurizio Calvesi, and Palma Bucarelli are very notable. In 1967he was commissioned with the sculpture *La foresta pietrificata* on behalf of the Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna. In 2011 he is awarded the Premio nazionale "Presidente della Repubblica for fine arts , by President Giorgio Napolitano. In 2013 he became a Fellow of the Accademia di San Luca.

Catalogue: **ÈXÒRMA**
www.exormaedizioni.com

When: 29 May from 13 July 2014
Where: Palazzo Poli, via Poli, 54 (FontanaTrevi) Rome
Opening time: from 10 am to 7 pm
Closed on Monday
Free entrance

Press office and communication Istituto nazionale per la grafica
Head: **Angelina Travaglini** with the collaboration of **Roberta Ricci**
contacts: cell.334 6842173

in-g.ufficiostampa@beniculturali.it
angelina.travaglini@beniculturali.it

www.grafica.beniculturali.it