

## **Associazione Nazionale Incisori Contemporanei**

Support and develop Italian printmaking art by promoting contacts with other Associations, involving members in participation in exhibitions and projects, opening up to both the national and international panorama through connections with other foreign realities, groups of foreign printmakers, critics and prints enthusiasts. These are some of the objectives pursued by the National Association of Contemporary Engravers, founded in February 2013 by a group of artists, collectors and amateurs of graphic art.

Composed, to date, by a large group of about 70 artists, the Association has proved to be very lively, in these first years of activity, bringing together both young but capable and enterprising members and already established and poetically structured masters, artists of different geographical origin, generational dimension and educational background, flowing from the North to the South of Italy and recovering the memories of important graphic schools but also more current sensibilities and new creative paths. The group is thus very heterogeneous (including artists from sixteen Italian regions) bearing witness to the peculiarities and local traditions, the influence of the regional reality as well as the continuous opening to the international artistic panorama and the mutual exchange between different masters and experiences. The Association, which has grown numerically, year by year, in the awareness and maturity of projects and expectations, presents itself as a fully structured reality, the protagonist of numerous wide-ranging exhibition experiences that involved, in a logic of common participation, all members in dialogue with each other.

Just as the passion for the art of engraving and the desire to disseminate knowledge have supported the organization of exhibitions in important Italian cultural realities, so the curiosity towards the international context has stimulated the search for connections with foreign dimensions.

The Association promotes the art of printmaking in every trend and style, from the traditional chalcography and relief printing, to lithography and various experimental techniques, allowing the public of exhibitions to benefit from the specificity of the various languages, to estimate the approach of each individual master to graphic means and to the potential of the technique. Bringing together artists with very different backgrounds and stylistic sensibilities, in a continuous path of linguistic and material investigation, allows to appreciate both a figurativeness that is always acutely investigated, and abstract formulas where the sign becomes the full protagonist of aesthetic communication. The printmaker technical skill, his knowledge of materials, as well as tools, structure the poetics and the very contents of making art, support the vitality of contemporary art printing. And above all, they convey the complexity of this language which requires availability for discovery and time in reading, which requires to be questioned to reveal, in addition to the iconographic content or the message, also the semantics and aesthetic power of the engraved sign.

In the receptacle of different graphic manifestations, the Association welcomes very lyrical works, entrusted to the emotional strength of the sign, the purity of the forms and the compositional rigor. In addition to the attention to aniconic languages, in the full tradition of Italian graphics it is the investigation of reality, in the minute and punctual figurativeness or in the more distracted and almost dreamlike reading, that still decisively characterizes the panorama of the research of many of the Association's masters.

The opening to the several variations of the vocabulary of graphic art characterizes and supports the vitality of the Association which, thanks to the new meetings and matured accolades and the enthusiasts who support it, is strengthened in the purpose of supporting and disseminating the artistic expression.

### **The presence on the Web**

Since its foundation, the Association has had a website [www.incisoricontemporanei.it](http://www.incisoricontemporanei.it) where the members are presented, with biographical notes, contacts and some of their works. Also the catalogs of the exhibitions and photo galleries of the exhibitions, educational and social events, as well as some interesting videos of master engravers at work are published.

We also have a facebook page [www.facebook.com/incisoricontemporanei](http://www.facebook.com/incisoricontemporanei) much visited and constantly updated with photos and news of the Association's activities.

### **Exhibitions and international relations**

In the course of its activity, the Association has held nearly fifty exhibitions in Italy and abroad, very often enriched by printmaking workshops that actively involved the public.

The Italian sites that have hosted the Association's exhibitions:

- Villa Benzi Zecchini in Caerano di San Marco (Treviso): a XVI Century Villa hosting the operational and exhibition headquarters of the Association, where a dozen exhibitions were held
- National University Library of Turin: 4 exhibitions
- Church of the Angel and Palazzo Agostinelli of the Civic Museums of Bassano del Grappa (Vicenza): 2 exhibitions
- Baraccano Museum Complex in Bologna: 2 exhibitions
- Vallicelliana Library, Rome
- Benetton Research Studies Foundation, Treviso: 3 exhibitions
- Ca 'Robegan, Civic Museums, Treviso
- Palazzo Zacco, Municipality of Ragusa
- Laboratorio Orlando Contemporaneo, Capo d'Orlando (Messina): 2 exhibitions
- University Library, Sassari: 2 exhibitions
- "Mario Di Iorio" Art Gallery, Isontina State Library, Gorizia: 3 exhibitions
- "Stelio Crise" State Library, Trieste: 3 exhibitions
- Museum of the City of Rimini

In full implementation of the founding objectives, the Association has collaborated with foreign cultural institutions, including Xylon Argentina, Cork Printmakers (Ireland), Bitola International Triennial of Graphics (Macedonia), Sofia Academy of Fine Arts (Bulgaria), The Printsaurus International Print Exchange Association of Japan, "Tribuna" Art Magazine and Art Museum of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and the China Printmaking Museum of Guanlan (Shenzhen, China) where the Association was presented at the International Printmaking Forum 2018.

These collaborations have matured with exchange of events and exhibition projects, which took place both in Italy and abroad, in particular in:

- Espacio Cero - Escuela Municipal de Bellas Artes of Quilmes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Casa de la Cultura of Quilmes, Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Victor Roverano Museum of Quilmes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- NI Institute and Museum, Bitola, Macedonia
- Galerie Konoha, Tokyo, Japan
- Crawford Art Gallery in Cork, Ireland
- Garter Lane Arts Center, Waterford, Ireland
- Museum of Art of Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- San Stefano Gallery in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Ruse Art Gallery in Ruse, Bulgaria
- China Printmaking Museum in Guanlan, Shenzhen, China (a second exhibition is scheduled for December 2020)