

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.

Educational Activities

Educational activities are another important means used to disseminate knowledge of printmaking art. For this purpose, the Association organizes free workshops for primary and secondary schools. During its exhibitions, printing demonstrations of plates made with different printmaking techniques are also carried out, and engraving and printing workshops are organized for adults and children.

The presence on the Web

Since its foundation, the Association has had a website 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.

A section of the site is dedicated to the WorldWide Prints project whose description is available in various languages at the following link https://www.incisoricontemporanei.it/it/sezioni/Project-Description_1181.htm

We also have a facebook page 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 about sixty exhibitions in Italy and abroad, very often enriched by printmaking workshops that actively involved the public.

In Italy our exhibitions have been hosted at Villa Benzi Zecchini in Caerano di San Marco (Treviso), formerly the operational headquarters of our Association, in Cison di Valmarino where we currently have our operational headquarters, National University Library of Turin, Civic Museums of Bassano del Grappa (Vicenza), Baraccano Museum Complex in Bologna, Vallicelliana Library in Rome, Benetton Research Studies Foundation in Treviso, Ca 'Robegan of Civic Museums in Treviso, Palazzo Zacco of Municipality of Ragusa, Laboratorio Orlando Contemporaneo in Capo d'Orlando (Messina), University Library in Sassari, Isontina State Library in Gorizia, "Stelio Crise" State Library in Trieste, Museum of the City of Rimini, Barco Mocenigo in Castello di Godego (Treviso), Casa della Memoria, Milano, Galleria Il Bisonte, University Library Bologna.

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), Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna, Olsztyn, Poland, National Museum "Kyiv Art Gallery" (Ukraine), Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (Polonia) 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 exchanges of events and exhibition projects, which took place both in Italy and abroad, in particular in Buenos Aires, Bitola (Macedonia), Tokyo, Yokohama and Nagasaki (Japan), Cork and Waterford (Ireland), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Sofia and Ruse (Bulgaria), Guanlan (Shenzhen – China), Olsztyn and Varsavia (Poland).

Works by our artists can be found in numerous museums and public and private institutions in Italy and abroad. In August 2023, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London accepted 30 prints by our artists who become part of the museum's permanent collection. Another 120 prints are part of the permanent collection of the China Printmaking Museum in Guanlan. Prints by individual artists of the Association are part of the permanent collections of the Uffizi in Florence, the Vatican Museums, the Museo della Grafica in Pisa, Istituto Centrale per la Grafica in Rome, the Albertina in Vienna, the Civic Collection of Bertarelli prints at the Castello Sforzesco in Milan, the Museo Nacional Reina Sofia Art Center in Madrid and in many more public and private Italian and foreign institutions.

Catalogs of the Association's exhibitions are present in many Italian and foreign libraries, including that of the Cabinet of Drawings and Prints of the Uffizi in Florence, the Civic Collection of Prints "Achille Bertarelli" at the Castello Sforzesco in Milan, the Fondazione Benetton Studi Research of Treviso, the University Library of Bologna, the Museo della Grafica in Pisa, the China Printmaking Museum of Guanlan, Shenzhen.

On the following page, some pictures of the Association's events.

Some pictures of the Association's events



Italy-Japan exhibition at Fondazione Benetton in Treviso



Exhibition of Association members' works at China Printmaking Museum, Guanlan



Bulgaria-Italy exhibition at San Stefano Gallery in Sofia



Ireland-Italy exhibition at Crawford Art Gallery in Cork.



Printing lesson with students in a first grade secondary school class



Engraving and printing workshop for visitors to an exhibition