

ART FORUM WÜRTH CAPENA

The Transavantgarde between Lüpertz and Paladino Works in the Würth Collection

Art Forum Würth Capena
Until January 24, 2015

Opening hours

Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed on Sundays and public holidays
Admission free



Mimmo Paladino, *Poeta ebbro / Drunken poet*, 1984, olio su tela / oil on canvas, Coll. Würth, Inv. 3044 (sinistra/left)
Markus Lüpertz, *10 Bilder über das mykenische Lächeln – Oedipus / 10 immagini sul sorriso miceneo – Edipo / 10 pictures on the Mycenaean smile – Oedipus*, 1985, olio su tela / oil on canvas, Coll. Würth, Inv. 3436 (destra/right), © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2014

Press release

After the great success among critics and the interest shown by the public in an innovative and original project, the Art Forum Würth Capena is pleased to announce that the exhibition "The Transavantgarde from Lüpertz to Paladino - Works in the Würth Collection" will be on view in its spaces until January 24, 2015.

The exhibition unveils works, never shown before, of two of the most famous artists of the contemporary art scene, emphasising their projects, that through the display of the works highlight the dialogue developed by their artistic research.

Sixty works of art: paintings and sculptures by artists **Mimmo Paladino** and **Markus Lüpertz**, two of the leading exponents of the Transavantgarde movement, in an ideal comparison between Italy and Germany.

Thanks to collector-businessman Prof. Dr. h. c. mult. **Reinhold Würth's** permanent interest in the art trends which characterized the 1970s and 1980s, over time his Collection has acquired numerous works of Italian and German exponents of this movement, that celebrates the return to painting.

The dating of the works allows us to follow the different stages of the careers of Mimmo Paladino and Markus Lüpertz, between affinity and specificity, up to the first decade of the Twenty-first century.

Theorized by art critic **Achille Bonito Oliva**, the Transavantgarde was officially presented at the Venice Biennale in 1980 as a movement of reaction to the crisis that had invested not only art, but also the economic and cultural spheres of the western world. In opposition to the conceptualism and *Arte Povera* prevailing at that time, Transavantgarde proposed a return to painting and to an art no longer based upon "the anticipated certainty of a project and an ideology" but rather on the ability to move freely in all directions: "private and mythical images, private signs linked to personal history and public signs linked to art history and culture" converge in the work of art. (A. Bonito Oliva)

In the light of certain affinities with German artists working in those years, including Markus Lüpertz, Achille Bonito Oliva curated the exhibition "German Transavantgarde" in Italy in 1980.

Markus Lüpertz (Liberec, 1941) is a painter, sculptor and poet. Multiple suggestions deriving from myths, the great masters of the past and literature intertwine in his work, but his universe of forms is independent, responding only to the vision of the creator and his internal laws of pictorial reality.

The work of painter sculptor **Mimmo Paladino** (Paduli 1948) is inspired by great freedom and wealth of references, linked both to personal experience as well as to the history of art and culture. Figuration and abstraction live in symbiosis in his works, converging in a universe of mysterious enigmatic signs.

For the exhibition the publisher Swiridoff has presented a catalogue with a critic introduction by Achille Bonito Oliva.

Art and culture represent an important added value to the business philosophy of the Würth Group, whose core business is the trade in assembly and fastening material on a global scale. Founded by Reinhold Würth, the Würth Collection is one of the most important German art collections. In 1991 the firm was the first to introduce spaces for art within its offices on an international scale. Today there are 15 Würth open spaces in ten different nations. Since 2006, the Art Forum Würth Capena has presented temporary exhibitions to the Italian public centred on works from the Würth Collection, which today comprises around 16.000 paintings, graphic works and sculptures mainly from the Twentieth and Twenty-first centuries.

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