**Council of Milan**

Culture and Performing Arts, Art Collections

**PAC**

**Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea / Pavilion of Contemporary Art**

Via Palestro, 14 Milan, Italy

**COLLEZIONARE IL PROPRIO TEMPO**

La donazione di Antonio Boschi e Marieda Di Stefano al Comune di Milano

**COLLECT ONE'S OWN TIME**

The donation of Antonio Boschi and Marieda Di Stefano to the Council of Milan

The PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea/Pavilion of Contemporary Art, on its second exhibition after the restoration, holds about 1000 out of 2200 works that belonged to the collection Boschi-Di Stefano. As a sort of homage to collecting the public has the opportunity to discover the extent of this civic collection and to get closer to the artistic environment within which the cultural Italian debate took place from 1930 to 1970, allowing a reflection on the concept of collecting and on the character of the collector of which the married couple Antonio Boschi and Marieda Di Stefano were an important example.

The exhibition shows most of the paintings from the collection Boschi-Di Stefano just before accomplishing the creation of a foundation which will deal with the management of the collection through cultural and expositive events. The project, agreed to by the current municipality and the Boschi heirs, foresees the management of the assets of the collection according to the Civiche Raccolte d'Arte and is highly innovative as a model in increasing the value of the museum assets of the city. The works come from the rooms of the CIMAC, where they are permanently on display and largely from the storage of Palazzo Reale, while the sculptures of Marieda Di Stefano come from the Ceramics School, in the Palazzina del Portaluppi in Via Jan, Milan, which had been residence to Mr. and Mrs. Boschi.

A side section recreates the environment of the Boschi's house through the exhibition of households and personal effects, such as carpets, a piano, violins, decorative objects, ceramics and large photographs taken by Gabriele Basilico inside the building in Via Jan. The project has been created also thanks to the precious advise of the architects Alessandro and Francesco Mendini, grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Boschi.

The collection started by the married couple Boschi at the end of the '20s and shaped during 40 years in a live relationship with the artists, remains as testimony of direct evidence of the cultural and artistic life of that time, going from Futurism to Metaphysics, from representatives of the "Corrente/Trend" to Nuclearism, to Spatialism, to the Informal.

There are on show famous works and a series of canvas almost never seen before, a testimony to the constant attention of the collector - patron for the discoveries of those artists who later established themselves as the highest representatives of avantgartes, from the '30s to the '60s. For this reason among the most appreciated artists by the couple there were Morandi and Fontana who were able to keep alive such creative dimension for a long period. For the artists of those years the house in Via Jan was a place of meetings and of vivid debates, to which Arturo Martini, Carrà and Sironi took part among others. In the collection we can find early works of artists such as Tozzi, De Chirico and De Pisis. The presence of large units of works by Dova, Chighine, Fontana, Peverelli, Crippa, Dangelo and Baj is important in order to understand the collection. There are also works from the "Scuola Romana", the "Chiaristi Lombardi" and "Sei: di Torino". The couple's short stays abroad are instead documented by the acquisition of works by foreigner painters such as: Hundertwasser, Patrik Heron and Swan, Vento, Alcoy and Garcia.

Several paintings from the Boschi collection can be admired already at the Contemporary Art Museum of Milan, in different rooms dedicated to the artists of the "Corrente/Trend" such as Birolli, Cassinari, Morlotti, Treccani, Valenti, Vedova, Migneco, Peverelli, Badodi.

After 1968, following the death of his wife who significantly contributed to the selection of the collected works, Antonio Boschi kept away from the artists and the galleries for some time, and only later he found himself again interested in art, scouting new talents, among them the Sicilian Basile.

In 1973 the architect Antonio Boschi donated to the Council of Milan the whole collection and the house in Via Jan. In 1974 a selection of about 300 works was put on display at Palazzo Reale, while in 1988, at his death a clause was signed which committed the municipality to build a museum at his house. Today the restoration of Boschi house is finished and the abode is ready to become a museum.

The exhibition is sponsored by Pirelli, which wanted to remember the character of Antonio Boschi, who for many years had been very active in the research and the development of the company.

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