**Chamber of Commerce of Como Council of Como** **Province of Como**

Church of San Francesco

Palazzo del Broletto

Chiostrino of Sant'Eufemia

Chamber of Commerce of Como

**Filare il tempo / Spinning time**

**2007 miniartexilcomo**

curated by Luciano Caramel

Church of S. Francesco, Palazzo del Broletto, Chiostrino of Sant'Eufemia, Chamber of Commerce - Como

**30 September 2007 - 4 November 2007**

Continuing with a great audience turnout is the prestigious international exhibition of contemporary art **FILARE IL TEMPO/SPINNING TIME. 2007 miniartextilcomo**, curated by Luciano Caramel, in four illustrious venues in Como: the Church of San Francesco, the Palazzo del Broletto, the evocative Chiostrino of Sant'Eufemia and the Chamber of Commerce of Como.

The exhibition has been thought of and organized by the Arte&Arte Association, with the patronage of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, Lombardy Region, and with the patronage and the cooperation of the Council of Como, the Province of Como and the Chamber of Commerce.

The whole show holds **120 works** (among which several **never seen before pieces**) by artists mainly from Western and Eastern Europe, the United States, South America and Asia. The exhibition allows the audience to admire more than 50 **minitextiles**, works small in size, more than 20 big **installations**, two **videos, photographs** and a **solo exhibition by Marisa Bronzini**, long-established master of the textile contemporary art and winner of the Antonio Ratti Prize in 2003.

Among the **minitextiles**, on display in the **Church of San Francesco**, it is worth mentioning works by Ceca Georgieva (Bulgaria), Alvaro Diego Gomez Campuzano (Colombia), Pamela Hardesty (Ireland), Ieva Krumina (Latvia), Violetta Piskurewicz (Poland), Johanna Virtanen (Finland), Barbara Esser and Wolfgang Horn (Germany), Antonio Bernardo and Giovanna Bolognini (Italy). Also let's mention Luciana Costa Gianello, author of the work "Impronte…frammenti di un cammino/Imprints... fragments of a path", which has won the Prize Antonio Ratti 2007, created by the sculptor Nicola Salvatore from Como, and Anastasia Azure who won the Prize Arte&Arte 2007 with the work "When Formed". As the curator Luciano Caramel points out "'filare il tempo/spinning time - 2007miniartextilcomo' records the synergy between the ancient and the contemporary, between history and present, in the combination among the techniques, the most different textile materials and the most recent contemporary art". The exhibition presents representatives of the best international artistic production within **Textile Art**, which reclaims ancient textile notions renewing them and sometimes revolutionizing patterns and materials with fascinating results.

**Unusual are the materials** used for the art pieces: linen, bamboo, silk, copper, cotton, rafia, coconut fiber, organza, as well as factory conveyor belts. The artists interpret the theme of the flow of time and daily living, as proved among others by the minitextiles by

Kela Cremaschi (Italy), Anny Ferrario (Italy), Ursula Gerber-Senger (Switzerland), Kakuku Ishii (Japan), Renata Jackowiak (Poland) and Michiko Sakuma (Japan).

Among the large sized installations standing out in the Church of San Francesco is that by the Egyptian artist Sabah Naim, made up of very light transparent canvases suspended from the ceiling with single black and white full-size images of the people from Cairo: the military, the elderly, children and women which summarize the cultural and social diversity of the passersby.

Other monumental installations are those by three Japanese: Machiko Agano, Manabu Angai and Yoko Kataoka. Also on display: Fatma Charfi M'seddi (Switzerland-Tunisia), the main character of the performance "Laboratorio di pace: tappa italiana/Workshop of peace: Italian stop-over" which opened the show, Machiko Agano (Japan), Sun-Rae Kim (Korea), and Alvaro Diego Gomez Campuzano (Colombia).

The **Palazzo del Broletto** hosts a homage to the artist that recently died, Marisa Bronzini, with a solo show made up of around forty works of small and medium-large size, a meaningful retrospective of her extensive work which goes from the '20s to today. At the **Chiostrino of Sant'Eufemia** one can admire three installations by international artists and 6 carpets by major artists. What testifies the link between textile sculpture and environment is the work by the Dutch artist Antoon Versteegde, already present at the 1993 edition, "L'albero sintetico/The synthetic tree", in bamboo and rubber and placed in the small garden. On display at the **Chamber of Commerce of Como** is the work by Dorothea Reese-Heim (Germany), also present in San Francesco and in Sant'Eufemia, an installation in fiberglass, steel wool and mirror of 75x175x225cm.

Miniartextil 2007 extensively portrays the youngest generations, a unique case is that of the Irish Claire Morgan, born in 1980, the subject of 154.000 search results on Google and last year winner of the Arnaldo Pomodoro Prize. Even photography is interpreted by another three Italian young artists: Ilaria Giussani (Como), Michele Guido (Lecce) and Maddalena Ambrosio (Naples).

Born from an idea by Nazzarena Bortolaso and Mimmo Totaro, founders of the Arte&ArteCultural Association, "Miniartextil had its first edition in 1991 and since then has gained more and more prestige becoming a unique event in Italy" say the organizers, "an event that conquered the international artistic world. The show is born in Como, birthplace *par excellence* of the silk production, thus becoming a benchmark for contemporary art".

Of great importance is the educational and teaching aspect inherent in the exhibition: the content of the works and the setting become a source of inspiration and debate for the students of all levels, including university. In the past the visits of teachers and students from many European Countries (such as France, Germany, Belgium and Spain) has also been very frequent.

Several artists hosted in the previous editions of Miniartextil took part to the Biennali of Venice: the Italian **Marisa Bronzini** (1938), the Chinese **Liang Shaoji** (1999) and **El Anatsui** (2007), an artist from Ghana who last year arrived in Como, where he exposed an extraordinary tapestry in aluminum and copper wire.

**Catalogue** with critical text by Luciano Caramel in Italian, English and French. Also available are **guided tours** for groups by appointment.

**Project and organization curated by Nazzarena Bortolaso and Mimmo Totaro for Arte&Arte.**

**Press office: Irma Bianchi Comunicazione**