**Bopo Bowling Ground**

Ponteranica (Bergamo) Italy

**Francisco Goya. Tauromachie e altre battaglie**

**Francisco Goya. Tauromachies and other battles**

curated by Michele Tavola

20 June 2009 - 26 July 2009

The exhibition **Francisco Goya. Tauromachie e altre battaglie/Francisco Goya. Tauromachies and other battles** enables the audience to discover a series of etchings by Goya among the most beautiful ones that he made: the sheets of the **Tauromachia/Tauromachy**, made between 1814 and 1816, between tragic chiaroscuros and amazing scenic inventions, tell the story of the endless struggle between bulls and bullfighters that, for the Spanish artist, becomes a great allegory of human vicissitudes.

In this series, representing the core of the exhibition, Goya displays all his sensitivity and technical skill by exploring the endless possibilities of etching. Together with the tauromachies, the core of the exhibition, there are on display other works by Goya, **all original etchings**, that revolve around the theme of battle, both metaphorically and literally: worth mentioning are the tragic and bloody compositions of the **Disastri della guerra/Disasters of war**, the great tablets of the **Proverbi/Proverbs** and the well-known series of the **Capricci/Caprices** among which stands out "Il sonno della ragione genera mostri/The sleep of reason produces monsters", one of the most famous etchings by the artist.

On show is an extraordinary graphic corpus where one can admire important works like the "Capricci/Caprices", the first important series of incisions by Goya, for the first time published in 1799, which portrays visionary images, nightmares and hallucinations, metaphors of a rotten and lost world, where human degeneracy seems unrestricted.

Of great value are the works from the series "Disastri della guerra/Disasters of war", maybe the most upsetting among the artistic documents on man's cruelty. In the series, posthumously published for the first time in 1863, Goya tells of what he saw and experienced during the occupation of the Napoleonic troops in Spain: summary executions, looting, rapes and all kinds of violence perpetrated by a foreign army against the civilian population. It is one of the harshest and strongest condemnations of war made by an artist through his own work. Very meaningful in this way is "Non si può sapere perché/One can't tell why" on display.

From the series the "Proverbi/Proverbs", made up of 22 incisions (left unfinished at the artist's death and published posthumous), stands out among the others "Pioggia di Tori/Rain of bulls". In these etchings the very refined technique is comparable to that of the "Tauromachia/Tauromachy", while in regards to the subjects these sheets are the ideal continuation of the "Capricci/Caprices".

The exhibition, sponsored by the Council of Ponteranica, is completed by the **screening of two short films** of artabout the works by Goya made by the famous director, screenwriter and producer **Luciano Emmer** (Milano 1918), with music performed by **Andrés Segovia**, named "Goya. I disastri della guerra/Goya. The disasters of war" which tells of the martyrdom of the **Spanish** people during the Napoleonic invasion and "La festa di Sant'Isidoro/The festival of St. Isidore" which evokes the atmosphere of Spain in XVIII century.

The venue for the setting of the exhibition is the BOPO - Bowling Ground of Ponteranica (Bergamo) - a space culturally vibrant with exhibitions, concerts and conferences. The **catalogue** is produced by Lubrina Editore and contains a DVD**,** produced by Lab 80, which shows a documentary by Luciano Emmer.

The exhibition is made with the support of the companies that have joined the project PonteranicARTE, promoted by the Council of Ponteranica.

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