**L'oro di Praga - Poesie visive/The Gold of Prague - Visual poems**

Palazzo dei Sette - Orvieto

28 March 1999 - 16 June 1999

On Saturday 27 March the exhibition "L'oro di Praga - Poesie visive/The Gold of Prague - Visual poems" will be launched in the rooms of the historical Palazzo dei Sette of the Council of Orvieto, first one of the series of art events: "L'oro di Praga - Progetto Arte-Paese 1999/The gold of Prague - Project Art-Country 1999".

On show there are 200 works, made by the Czech artists Vaclav Havel, Jiri Kolar, Ladislav Novak and Karel Trinkewitz, coming from Italian, Czech and French collections. The exhibition names the whole cultural festival that will take place during 1999 and, focusing on metaphors, underlines a great source of artistic experiences and outcomes, which (through the works of four poets/artists who started their artistic careers in the '50s and are all still working) give examples of visual poetry, of the fusion between sculpture and word, music and image, of which Prague has been one of the great international workshops. By Vaclav Havel there will be on display 30 large never seen before works, made specifically for this occasion. Made in Italian and on large sizes, they take inspiration from the *Anticodici*, visual poems made in the early '60s, characterized by a sharp black humour, circulating only secretively in the old Czechoslovakia and here and there in Europe and Italy. Vaclav Havel, playwright, poet, present president of the Czech Republic, is one of the great protagonists of the avantgarde of Prague, as well as one of the main catalysts of Charter 77 and the revolution, as it is known.

By Jiri Kolar there will be 75 works of which there are 50 collages from the late '50s and early '60s, mostly never seen before, coming from the private collection of Ladislav Novak. It is not an overstatement to reckon these works among the utmost masterpieces of the Czech artist. Moreover a core of 15 more recent works of large sizes will be exhibited, coming from Italian and French collections. Jiri Kolar is one of the most highly respected European artists of the aftermath of the Second World War, known for his special collage technique (after him it became very popular also among many Italian artists) which gathers the inheritance of surrealism and introduces it into a cultural context strongly influenced by the cold bureaucratic criticism of Kafka.

On show by Ladislav Novak there are 80 works among which 60 of his first collages made in the '50s, as well as a group of 20 recent works. Novak is one of the founders of the Czech concrete and visual poetry of the '50s and he is also among its most known international protagonists. His early works, consecutive and parallel to those by Kolar and Havel (with whom he continually worked together) will be for the first time in Italy on this occasion.

By Karel Trinkewitz the exhibition presents the first political works of the early '60s: 15 collages mostly never seen before. In addition there will be 20 works of large size, among which there are the most famous ones made afterward: objects - collages of often huge sizes and of strong visual impact. On the occasion and especially for the entrance hall of the Palazzo dei Sette, Trinkewitz made a "Aereo - Omaggio a D'Annunzio/Airplane - Homage to D'Annunzio", which is majestic in size.

The event will be accompanied by four different catalogues, one for each artist, curated by Enrico Mascelloni and Sarenco and coordinated by Barbara Grimani. Such volumes, published by Parise Editore, Verona, will hold the colour reproductions of the displayed works, texts by the artists, critics and experts, as well as up-to-date bibliographical files.