*Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities*

SUPERINTENDENCE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

*FOR THE HISTORICAL, ARTISTIC AND DEMOETHNOANTROPOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF SALERNO AND AVELLINO*

***Campania Region***

CULTURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

***Province of Salerno***

**Cileno and Vallo di Diano National Park - Council of Padula** - **Mountain Community Vallo di Diano**

*Press Release 20/7/04*

# LE OPERE E I GIORNI – TRE/

# WORKS AND DAYS - THREE

# *exhibition devised and curated by Achille Bonito Oliva*

## Exhibition Le Opere e i Giorni – La Vanitas/Works and days - Vanity

**Ortus Artis**  – landscaping section

Exhibition Duration 18 June – 30 September 2004. Afterwards guided tours upon booking only

**Event Duration for three years 2002** – **2003** – **2004**

Venue Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula (Salerno)

**Exh. Opening Hours Upon booking only on tel. 0975.77745 10am-1pm**

**Charterhouse Op. Hours 9am-9pm daily**

**Charterhouse Entrance Fee €4**

With three launching days, 18, 19 and 20 June 2004 the third and last edition of **Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and Days** opened to the public; it was devised as a three year event and curated by **Achille Bonito Oliva** at the **Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula**. After the *Verbo/Word* and the *Precetto/Law*, the theme of this year is *Vanitas/Vanity*.

The exhibition is promoted by the **Superintendence of Salerno and Avellino**, with the patronage of the Ministry for the Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Campania Region and the Province of Salerno. Also this year **Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and Days** is part of the **Annali delle Arti/Art Annals**, a project promoted by the Campania Region, devised and directed by Achille Bonito Oliva.

The artists participating, who have been allocated their cells on 29 May 2004, have been invited to create their works through the most different artistic languages, able to represent a theme linked to the finiteness of things and the passing of time, which are elements of the *Vanitas/Vanity*.

As for in the other two exhibitions, the cells of the monks became “ateliers” where the artists took residence, along the lines of the “Carthusian life”, to create their own works according to the different artistic attitudes and ways of expression: *painting, sculpture, photography, videos, installations and performances, music, directing, dance, theatre, prose and poetry*.

This year, too, the works are set in different parts of the Charterhouse: barns, kitchens, ovens, cellars, courtyards, colonnades, the Monumental Staircase, the Sala del Capitolo (Chapterhouse), the church and the chapels.

In regards to the works made and exhibited during the three years, the idea is to make them heritage of the Charterhouse in order to build a permanent collection of Contemporary Art, the core of the new **CO.RE**. **Museum**, a synergy between the Campania Region and the Superintendence of Salerno and Avellino.

The reflection on the *Vanitas/Vanity* is present in every moment of the Carthusian life and can be considered the basis of its mystic life. The Benedictine *ora et labora/pray and work* becomes the Carthusian *ora et elabora/pray and elaborate*, through the working of the contemporary artists invited to live in the cells*.*

**Achille Bonito Oliva** says: “*Vanitas/Vanity* is a popular theme in art. The artists of the past left us exemplary works which are still very up-to-date”.

With the forthcoming of the **CO.RE. Museum** the Superintendence fulfills its project for promoting contemporary art within state museums and historical buildings, places which were once only appointed to host ancient art. As per the words of the Superintendent of Salerno and Avellino *Francesco Prosperetti*, “this project puts the Charterhouse in the category of the monumental spaces - museums, galleries, art centres and foundations - which host the extraordinary contemporary creativity”. The main theme of the exhibition is “memento mori” ("remember that you must die"), which, according to *Maria Giovanna Sessa*, director of the Charterhouse of San Lorenzo, “is the warning that echoes in the ancient spaces of the Charterhouse and is apparent in every decoration and artistic representation”.

There are about **a hundred** artists who have been involved during the three years, among which there are **forty-four** invited for 2004: **Ghada Amer**, **Elisabetta Benassi**, **Monica Biancardi**, **Bianco-Valente**, **Pietro Capogrosso**, **Patrizia Cavalli**, **Loris Cecchini**, **Paolo Chiasera**, **Enzo Cucchi**, **Alvin Curran**, **Ousmane Ndiaje Dago**, **Mario Dellavedova**, **Baldo Diodato**, **Isabella Ducrot**, **Maurizio Elettrico**, **Federico Fusi**, **Alberto Garutti**, **Kendell Geers**, **Piero Golia**, **Dino Innocente**, **Emilio Isgrò**, **Anish Kapoor**, **Sol Lewitt**, **Renato Mambor**, **Flavia Mastrella**, **MK, Liliana Moro with Vincenzo Cabiati**, **Paul Morrisey with Veruschka**, **Moataz Nasr**, **Nam June Paik**, **Maria Pizzi**, **Marialba Russo**, **Virginia Ryan**, **Remo Salvadori**, **Franco Scaldati**, **Grazia Toderi, Franco Vaccari**, **Wainer Vaccari**, **Franz West with Tamuna Sirbiladze**, **Sislej Xhafa**, **Gilberto Zorio**.

On 18 June RAM (Radio Arte Mobile), [www.radioartemobile.it](http://www.radioartemobile.it), has been broadcasted, devised by Zerynthia and coordinated by Cecilia Casorati, a series of live radio interviews with the artists of the exhibition, on the theme “La Vanitas/Vanity”, with remote interviews from Rome, Prague, Paris and Athens.

The three opening days hosted a series of special events. The movie “Vanitas - Veruschka, poesia di una donna (Engl. title: Veruschka - A life for the camera)” by Paul Morrissey was screened as a world premiere; it stars the famous model and actress Veruschka, who performed for the occasion. With “Grazia/Grace” Franco Scaldati proposed a form of “non-theatre theatre”, signified by his body and voice. Alvin Curran played in a *concert-performance* linked to the idea of a “sound portrait”. Patrizia Cavalli, winner of the Viareggio Prize for poetry, read poems from the collection “Sempre aperto teatro/Always open theatre”, in the silent setting of the Church.

The artists lived together with the works made by the artists from the two previous editions: *Mario Airò*, *Maja Bajevic*, *Nanni Balestrini*, *Per Barclay*, *Massimo Bartolini*, *Betty Bee*, *Alfonso Benadduce/Francesca Cutolo/Benedetta Jacovoni*, *Carlo Benvenuto*, *Antonio Caggiano*, *Maurizio Cannavacciuolo*, *Gianni Caravaggio*, *Letizia Cariello*, *Sandro Chia*, *Nicola De Maria*, *Alessandro Diaz De Santillana*, *Ilaria Drago*, *Jan Fabre*, *Gianandrea Gazzola*, *Pia Gazzola*, *Thorsten Kirchoff*, *Isabella Gherardi*, *Robert Gligorov*, *H. H. Lim*, *Rosaria Lo Russo*, *Mimmo Jodice*, *Mark Kostabi*, *Miriam la Plante*, *Amedeo Martegani*, *Fabio Mauri*, *Dorte Meyer*, *Gianmarco Montesano/Giulia Basel*, *Hidetoshi Nagasawa*, *Raffaella Nappo*, *Luigi Ontani*, *Tommaso Ottonieri*, *Mimmo Paladino and Toni Servillo*, *Luca Pancrazzi*, *Luca Maria Patella*, *Perino & Vele*, *Mimma and Vettor Pisani*, *Michelangelo Pistoletto*, *Alfredo Pirri*, *Antonio Rezza/Flavia Mastrella*, *Lucia Ronchetti*, *Franco Scognamiglio*, *Lorenzo Scotto di Luzio*, *Elisa Sighicelli*, *Roberta Silva*, *Marianna Troise*, *Alessandra Vanzi*, *Lello Voce*, *Giuseppe Zevola*, *Natalino Zullo*.

This year, too, **Ortus Artis,** curated by Achille Bonito Oliva and organized by the Superintendence together with studio.eu of Berlin, launched the part dedicated to landscaping. The exhibition allows the visitor to admire the creation of the works in the gardens of the cells, devised by internationally renowned contemporary landscape architects in harmony with the artists' works. Particular attention must be given to the aspects of the philological restoration of the historical garden. The landscape architects invited to work at the gardens are: **Henri Bava,** France; **Bet Figueras**, Spain; **Guido Hager**, Switzerland; **Joao Ferreira Nunes**, Portugal; **Stefan Tisher**, Germany.

Next to the new works the visitor can admire the gardens made for the previous edition by *Atelier le Balto*, France; *Victor Beiramar Diniz*, Portugal; *Helene Hölzl*, Italy; *Topotek 1*, Germany; *West 8*, Holland. The garden designed by the students of the Faculty of Architecture of the University “La Sapienza” of Rome (chosen among those designed during the workshop of the previous year) will also be set up.

The “giardino delle conserve/garden of conserves” becomes the subject of an exercise during the **workshop** of September, reserved for the students from ten Italian and international universities. The event is completed by an international convention on landscape curated by Paola Capone. *Gennaro Miccio*, curator of the Charterhouse of Padula, states: “this year Ortus Artis turns its attention not only to the problems in designing a contemporary garden, but also to the more wide themes of landscape and its modifications”.

The event in its entire three year course is documented by a video by *Pappi Corsicato* and photographs by *Giulio Buono,* *Studio Blu*. External coordination by *Giuliana Picarelli*.

At the end of 2004 **Skira** will publish the catalogue curated by **Achille Bonito Oliva**, which will be comprehensive of all the works from the three editions.

The exhibition is made possible by the contributions of: the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities; Directorate-General for Contemporary Architecture and Art; the Campania Region - Cultural Heritage Department; the Province of Salerno. In cooperation with: the Council of Padula; Mountain Community Vallo di Diano; Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park; made with the co-funding of the **European Union**, "Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and Days" gives back to the Charterhouse its role as cultural, social and economical centre of the territory, and lays the foundations for a permanent collection of contemporary art with the works by the artist who have been working in the huge complex during the three years.

The website [www.comune.padula.sa.it](http://www.comune.padula.sa.it) is available for info about the location.

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