*Campania Region Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities* Cultural Heritage Department Superintendence responsible for the historical buildings and landscape

*FOR THE HISTORICAL, ARTISTIC AND DEMOETHNOANTROPOLOGICAL HERITAGE*

*OF SALERNO AND AVELLINO*

**Press release - 3 October 2002**

# LE OPERE E I GIORNI/WORKS AND DAYS

*curated by Achille Bonito Oliva*

**Venue Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula (Salerno)**

**Exhibition Duration 9 – 29 September 2002 - available until September 2003**

**Event Duration September 2002 – 2003 - 2004**

**Opening Hours Daily from 9am to 8pm, Monday-Friday cells opening upon request with free guided tour**

Exhibition Entrance Fee free

Charterhouse Entrance Fee € 4

Cell allocations to the artists Monday 9 September at 6pm

Closing down days Friday 27 – Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 September 2002

The **Superintendence of Salerno and Avellino** together with the **Campania Region** - Department for the Cultural Heritage, in cooperation with the **Province of Salerno** - promotes the exhibition **"Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and Days"** devised and curated by **Achille Bonito Oliva**, at the **Charterhouse of San Lorenzo** in **Padula**, in the province of Salerno, from 9 to 29 September 2002, available to visit until September 2003. It is the first exhibition of a three year duration artistic event.

There are sixty artists called to work there until 2004.

Every year in September in the cells of the monks, transformed into *ateliers*, about 20 artists live and work, separately or together, making works which are the result of the combination of different artistic languages: painting, sculpture, photography, videos, music, directing, dance, theatre, prose and poetry.

The Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula, one of the most important monastic buildings of Southern Italy and the biggest in Europe, which has been recently restored, becomes a place of experimentation and exchange of new contemporary ways of expression.

The exhibition “Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and days” is named after the work with the same title by Hesiod, a Greek poet of the 8th century.

Achille Bonito Oliva says: “an exhibition in progress, an expository model never seen before which aims at giving exposure to the creative process of the artist, who makes his/her own work in *situ* (on the location) during the time of the exhibition. It thus evokes the motto of the Carthusian monks, *ora et labora*/*pray and work,* the active idleness of the Middle Ages”.

In 2002 the theme is the *Verbo/Word*, in 2003 the *Precetto/Law*, in 2004 the *Vanitas/Vanity*.

During the last three days of the exhibition they presented the solo and group "results" of this "Carthusian life" through exhibitions, installations, performances, discussions, plays, dances and concerts which will involve the areas of the Charterhouse - courtyards and gardens - featuring art critics, academics, philosophers, musicologists, experts of visual art and communication of the contemporary art world.

Until 2003 it will be possible to visit the cells, admire the works on display, listen to the recordings and watch the videos of the performances.

The artists invited for the 2002 edition are:Maurizio Cannavacciuolo - Gianni Caravaggio - Letizia Cariello - Alessandro Diaz de Santillana - Ilaria Drago - Isabella Gherardi - Thorsten Kirchhoff - H. H. Lim - Rosaria Lo Russo - Fabio Mauri - Dorte Meyer – Gian Marco Montesano and Giulia Basel - Tommaso Ottonieri - Luca Pancrazzi - Luca Maria Patella – Mimma e Vettor Pisani - Antonio Rezza and Flavia Mastrella - Lucia Ronchetti - Roberta Silva - Alessandra Vanzi - Lello Voce.

The development of the exhibition is recorded by a video by Pappi Corsicato and photographs by Maria Mulas.

Made possible thanks to the co-funding of the **European Union**, "Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and Days" gives back to the Charterhouse its role of a cultural, social and economical centre of the territory and puts the basis for the creation within it of a permanent collection of contemporary art works, left behind by their artists once they will have left the building.

The catalogue, curated by Achille Bonito Oliva, includes the works by all the artists who took part in the event during its three years of duration and it will be published in 2004.

*Francesco Prosperetti*, Superintendent of Salerno and Avellino, says: “This way we follow the policy of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities for contemporary art, for finding a place in the national and international cultural scene with high standard opportunities”.

There are contemporary artists next to masters from the past. The Charterhouse, in fact, preserves a series of works: paintings on canvas and board and wooden sculptures (16th-19th century). Some are still being restored and the visitor can witness the process “live”.

“The Charterhouse, an old place of contemplation, spirituality and appeasement of human concerns, thus becomes the place of preservation", as *Maria Giovanna Sessa*, Director of the Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula underlines.

The Charterhouse of Padula, founded in 1306 and acknowledged World Heritage by U.N.E.S.C.O., covers an area of 51.000sqm. with covered spaces, courtyards and green areas all completely restored and well-maintained; it is the symbol of the uninterrupted osmosis between contemplative life and a life lived, between asceticism and creativity.

Next to the Archeological Museum, managed by the Province of Salerno, the Charterhouse offers the visitor the permanent exhibitions ‘La Certosa Ritrovata/The Charterhouse rediscovered’ and ‘Le Certose d’Europa/The Charterhouses of Europe’.

The website [www.comune.padula.sa.it](http://www.comune.padula.sa.it) is continually up-dated on the development of the exhibition “Le Opere e i Giorni/Works and Days” during the month of September 2002.

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