ADI Design Museum – Compasso d’Oro

Piazza Compasso d’Oro 1 - Milan

**Stefano Chiassai**

 **Beyond Lockdown:**

**Drawings, Fabrics, Colours**

*Curated by Paola Maddaluno*

**5 March – 4 April 2023**

press release 13.03.23

Fashion designer Stefano Chiassai’s brightly coloured works are on display in the multidisciplinary exhibition *Stefano Chiassai: Beyond Lockdown. Drawings, Fabrics, Colours*, curated by Paola Maddaluno and hosted in the iconic rooms of the **ADI Design Museum –** **Compasso d'Oro** from 5 March to 4 April 2023. Employing multiple expressive forms, a gallery of thoughts and fragments of daily life depict the most significant moments of the pandemic in the form of a private notebook filled with characters, emotions and the desire for freedom: the custodian of relationships and an urge for rebirth.

The first section of the exhibition consists of numerous **felt-tip pen drawings** made during the days of lockdown. Invented characters, talking animals, elves and floating objects are just a few of the subjects Chiassai uses to comment on everyday events. His inexhaustible imaginative energy transforms worry into an opportunity for immersing oneself in boundless beauty.

In the second part of the exhibition, the world of figures, bodies and words assembled on paper is combined with the creative plurality of fashion design, creating an **original immersive installation**. Presented in a large room, where one wall is covered with a **fabric expressly designed for the exhibition**, where it is previewed, **seventeen tapestries** made on a Jacquard loom, together with **clothes** and original **design objects**, such as chairs and tables, reproduce the fabric’s motif on different materials. Together, these elements symbolise a mechanism that has converted negativity into a forward-looking path leading to a collective revival and the achievement of new goals.

Exactly three years after the first drawing, the works, exhibited in chronological order, are a testimony to the feelings and concerns that have engulfed the entire world. Starting with *Words in the Dark. Bla, Bla Bla,* *Let’s open our mouths to talk about positive things* from 8 March 2020, Chiassai uses crowded images full of details and symbols to portray an everyday life of contradictions, words, experiences and expectations. *Prisoners at home. Our Hearts Will Defeat the Monster* tells of the weeks of isolation through a whirlwind of hearts, viruses, closed doors, and eyes, whereas *Back To Open Doors With Discipline, Hope, But Also Many Unknowns* recreates the first days of reopening through words such as future, work, hope, and images of shops and people. The series of drawings concludes with the work from 31 December 2020, in which the dark, negative old year encounters the brightness and colours of the new year, auguring a return to full normality and rebirth.

Several of the works on show are collected in the book *Diario di un lockdown. 8 marzo 2020 – 31 agosto 2021* [Diary of a Lockdown: 8 March 2020 – 31 August 2021], published by Silvana Editoriale in 2021. They are also included in the exhibition and in the publishing project *Aria italiana*, edited by Gianfranco Maraniello, Alberto Salvadori and Vincenzo Trione, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and produced in 2021 with the participation of Fondazione ICA Milan.

**Stefano Chiassai** studied at Florence Art Institute. In 1980 he created his own brand ‘Stefano Chiassai’, and a few years later, in 1985, he and his wife Alessandra founded SCS Studio Chiassai. In 1987 his fashion designs represented Italian style at the Biennale Giovanile in Barcelona, and from 1988 to 2000 he taught Menswear Fashion Design at Polimoda in Florence. In 1994 he discontinued his own label and concentrated on stylistic and trend consultancies for numerous luxury brands. Since 2009, also due to the support of his team, he has been the designer of the Fendi Uomo menswear collection.

Over the years the Tuscan artist has amassed 20,000 vintage garments, now kept in the TheCube Archive, a meeting place for stylists, artists, musicians, students and creative people eager to interconnect. Chiassai has published several books: *Caosordinato* (2016) and *Ritmoemotivo* (2018) with Nuova Libri; *Bluetailoring* (2020) and *Diario di un Lockdown. 8 marzo 2020 – 31 agosto 2021* (2021), with Silvana Editoriale.

**ADI Design Museum** is a dynamic museum dedicated to the Compasso d'Oro collection. It focuses not only on creativity and design culture but also interacts with the city of Milan and the international scene. ADI Design Museum is a venue for presenting and promoting the Italian design system as an open avenue of exchange that engages with the very large design community and, due to its informational approach, also with non-professionals. The aim of ADI - Associazione per il Disegno Industriale [Industrial Design Association] is to build an inclusive environment that offers an enjoyable, but above a continuing experience for visitors, given the constant updating of the pieces in the Compasso d'Oro Collection.

As a cultural centre, ADI spotlights the contemporary world and research. It is able to break away from the traditional confines of museums and embrace the complexity of a globalised society by establishing connections between the world of design and those of fashion, architecture, science, technology and creativity in general, but also of systems of production.

**Exhibition details**

**Title** Stefano Chiassai. Oltre il lockdown. Disegni, tessuti, colori

**Curated by** Paola Maddaluno

**Venue** ADI Design Museum – Compasso d’Oro, Piazza Compasso d’Oro 1 - Milan

**Exhibition dates** 5 March – 4 April 2023

**Inauguration** Saturday 4 March 16:00 – 19:00

**Opening hours Tuesday – Sunday 10:30 – 20:00** (last entry 19:15). Closed Mondays

**Information** [www.adidesignmuseum.org](http://www.adidesignmuseum.org) - [support@adidesignmuseum.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CUser%5CAppData%5CRoaming%5CMicrosoft%5CWord%5Csupport%40adidesignmuseum.org)

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