**Council of Como**

**Antonio Ratti Foundation**

**SOMAINI**

**SCULTURE, DIPINTI E DISEGNI 1950/2001/SCULPTURES, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS 1950/2001**

*curated by Fred Licht and Luisa Somaini*

Press release, 8.11.2001

**5 December 2001 – 3 March 2002, COMO**

**BROLETTO, ANTONIO RATTI FOUNDATION, COURTYARDS OF THE CITY HALL (PALAZZO CERNEZZI) AND THE GIOVIO MUSEUM**

**Press preview** Tuesday, 4 December at 11am – **Broletto** – Piazza del Duomo

**Grand opening** Tuesday, 4 December at 6pm – **Broletto**

at 7pm – **Antonio Ratti** **Foundation** – Lungo Lario Trento, 9

The exhibition is born from a proposal by Philip Rylands, director of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection of Venice, made to the mayor of Como, Alberto Botta, on the occasion of the presentation of the completed restoration of the Broletto and the launching of its use as an expository venue.

The anthological event “**Somaini – sculture, dipinti e disegni 1950/2001/Somaini – sculptures, paintings and drawings 1950/2001/**” is set up as an exhibition with an ideal itinerary devised and promoted by the **Council of** **Como**, featuring the **Antonio Ratti** **Foundation** and with the scientific cooperation of the **Somaini Archive**.

Curated by **Fred Licht**, expert in modern and contemporary sculpture and curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation of New York, the exhibition retraces the more than half a century long artistic career of this great sculptor from Como (Lomazzo, 1926) and offers the opportunity of admiring a selection of never seen before works.

The exhibition develops in an articulate way, spread over several expository venues: the Broletto and the Antonio Ratti Foundation, attentive to the features of the locations, with the setting devised by **Luigi Caccia Dominioni**, while some monumental sculptures can be found in the **courtyard of the City Hall – Palazzo Cernezzi** (*Prometeo*, 1963) and in the **courtyard of the Giovio Museum** (*Grande traccia per la Nascita di Venere/Great track for the Birth of Venus*, 1986).

The event plans a sight-seeing itinerary, a "side event", in Como and its region, in public and private buildings, some of which are open to the public for the occasion.

The **Broletto** holds a retrospective of Francesco Somaini's sculpture, which starts from *Lotta con* *il mostro/Fight with the monster* of 1950 and ends with *Piccola Baccante/Young Bacchant* of 2001. The exhibition gathers about forty works which document all the phases of the creativity of the artist (from neo-cubism to the informal art, from the planning of a work for a specific environment to the creation of systematic forms, from the invention of *Traccia/Track*, a low relief which is the imprint of another sculpture, to the last season) and is set up according to thematic and chronological blocks, highlighting time after time the presence and the transformation in time of a specific subject or a sculptural idea.

The **Antonio Ratti** Foundation gathers important sculptures, paintings and drawings (keeping in mind that from 1988 to 1994 Somaini, together with Giuliano Collina, created and directed the Design High School of the Foundation). Two monumental low relief sculptures of the *Grande traccia per la Nascita di Venere/Great track for the Birth of Venus*, 1985 and 1986, are placed inside, while at the entrance there are two large sculptures, *Fortunia* of 1988 and *Fortunia III* of 1992. In the room on the first floor there have been usefully placed, compared and contrasted, low relief sculptures and tracks from the early 1980s, as well as contemporary drawings. There are also presented for the first time to the public a series of paintings on paper, dedicated to a fantasy representation of Mount Etna and to a reinterpretation of its myths and legends, made by Somaini in 1999-2000, together with some paintings on board and sculptures from different periods, dedicated to the theme of fire and the magmatic transformation of the matter (*Primavera d’altoforno/Blast-furnace Spring* of 1963).

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue published by Electa with colour and b/w reproductions of all the works, with texts in Italian and English by Fred Licht on sculpture, by Giovanni Maria Accame on design, and by Maria Corti, author of the book "Catasto magico/Magic land registry" (Einaudi, 1999), on the series regarding Mount Etna. The catalogue, in addition to the bio-bibliographical files, also includes old texts by other authors such as Argan, Crispolti, Fillitz, Bossaglia, Caramel and others.

**Title**  **SOMAINI – Sculture, dipinti e disegni 1950/2001/**

**SOMAINI – Sculptures, paintings and drawings 1950/2001**

**Venues in Como** **BROLETTO**, Piazza del Duomo, Como

**ANTONIO RATTI FOUNDATION**, Lungo Lario Trento 9, Como

**COURTYARD OF THE CITY HALL (PALAZZO CERNEZZI),** Via Vittorio Emanuele 97, Como

**COURTYARD OF THE GIOVIO MUSEUM**, Piazza Medaglie d’Oro, Como

**IN COMO AND ITS REGION** (as per leaflet)

**Duration** **5 December 2001 – 3 March 2002**

**Opening hours from 11am to 6pm. Closed Monday. Closed on 25 and 26 December, 1 January**

**Entrance fee free entry**

**Guided tours days and times to be determined**

**Catalogue ELECTA €35**

**Info Council of Como** Ph. 031.252352 – **Antonio Ratti** **Foundation** Ph. 031.233111