Milano is a city born and developed thanks to its close relationship with water; thanks to the network of natural and man-made waterways, that flowed straight into it and encircled the city. The canals shaped its morphology and supported its economical and social development. In the same year as the Universal Exposition we couldn't miss the opportunity to pay our respects and have an in-depth analysis of this important aspect of the history and soul of our city.

The exhibition “Omar Galliani. Il disegno nell’acqua/Omar Galliani. The drawing in water” examines this old relationship, starting from the studies of this contemporary artist on Leonardo Da Vinci, who with the design of the network of the Navigli linked his name to Milan. The meaningful selection of very valuable drawings, paintings and boards gathered here, in this exhibition, opens a window on Galliani's formal and conceptual considerations, carried on since 1979, and describes the artist's interest for the analysis of a relationship between man and nature, where art is raised to an element of synthesis and balance. It is a fascinating exhibition that unfolds in places and spaces that are also very evocative: first of all the City Aquarium, one of the main monuments left to Milan by the Universal Exposition in 1906, and then the *Conca del Naviglio dell’Incoronata*, with an original installation named “Aquatica. La memoria dell’acqua/Aquatica. The memory of water”.

It is the project for an exhibition with a great artistic value, that was born out of the co-operation among the Council, the Omar Galliani Archive, the Expo and the Society of the Navigli Lombardi; this proves once again the potential that in the last few years could be expressed and made real in Milan, thanks to a closer and closer cooperation between private and public organizations and institutions.

“Omar Galliani. Il disegno nell’acqua/Omar Galliani. The drawing in water” gives the people of Milan and the thousands of visitors to the Expo from all over the world a new, unique and exciting taste of today's Milan, vibrant and bubbling with energy, making our city one of the main protagonists of the cultural life of our continent.

Giuliano Pisapia

Mayor of Milan

