



THE ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DI SAN LUCA REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AT
A CONVERSATION WITH

GERMANO CELANT
on the subject of
GRAND TOUR DELL'ARTE POVERA
(Arte Povera's Grand Tour)

The event is part of the series entitled ***Le mostre raccontate*** [Narrated Exhibitions]

The evening will be introduced and presented by
Francesco Moschini

Thursday 17th May 2012, 7.00pm

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As part of the "Narrated Exhibitions" series, on Thursday 17th May the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca will host a conversation with Germano Celant on the theme of "Arte Povera's Grand Tour" which will be introduced by Francesco Moschini. Germano Celant will reflect on the experience of curating the "Arte Povera 2011" project which, as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy, involved eight different museums and cultural institutions simultaneously displaying over 300 art works and installations in galleries and open-air spaces in the Italian cities of Turin, Milan, Bologna, Rome, Naples and Bari.

The exhibition project centred on the artistic movement which was born in 1967 when Celant himself coined the term "Arte Povera", and the project has involved artists such as Giovanni Anselmo, Alighiero Boetti, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Luciano Fabro, Jannis Kounellis, Mario Merz, Marisa Merz, Giulio Paolini, Pino Pascali, Giuseppe Penone, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Emilio Prini and Gilberto Zorio, illustrating – over forty years later – the movement's historical development and contemporary evolution at a national and international level.

The programme of exhibitions represented the movement's various phases and "languages" in diverse locations: the Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Rivoli (Turin), the Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna in Rome, the GAMEC Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea in Bergamo, the MADRE Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina in Naples, the MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna in Bologna, the MAXXI Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo in Rome, the Milan Triennale and Bari's Teatro Margherita.

Together with the directors of each of the museums and institutions involved, Germano Celant devised an archipelago of exhibitions which have combined a vast number of art works – both historical and recent – in a journey through time, from 1967 to 2011, exploring the national and international events in which the artists connected with Arte Povera have been protagonists.

Thanks to its geographical scale, one of the project's notable characteristics has been that of connecting the national network of museums, creating a synergy within which the particular identity of each of the various institutions is reflected in the diverse and specific approaches adopted. The environmental installations of Arte Povera have been flanked by accompanying sections dedicated to photography, video, books and theatre, along with a selection of works by European and American artists emphasising the movement's important links with the international context.

The Castello di Rivoli hosted "Arte Povera International", which opened on 8th October and included a selection of works produced between 1967 and 1972 exemplifying the dialogue between Arte Povera and various parallel artistic movements, from Land Art to Conceptual Art and Body Art. In Milan, which has never previously had a major retrospective on Arte Povera, the Triennale took the opportunity to present "Arte Povera 1967-2011", which opened on 24th October, covering the movement's entire story from its origins to its most recent manifestations. At MAMbo, the exhibition entitled "Arte Povera 1968" was inspired by the 1968 exhibition held at Bologna's Galleria de' Foscherari and the critical debate that ensued. The church of Santa Maria Donnaregina, one of Naples' most important medieval buildings and now part of the MADRE complex, was the backdrop for the exhibition "Arte Povera più Azioni Povere 1968" which recalled the international show of the same name held at the Arsenali in Amalfi in October 1968. In Rome "Arte Povera 2011" took the form of two separate events: MAXXI presented "Omaggio all'Arte Povera" which included large installations by Kounellis and Zorio in dialogue with the museum's permanent installation by Penone. The Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna focused on the work of Pino Pascali, with a selection of 20 works from the museum's collection and a selection of works by Boetti, Fabro, Paolini, Penone, Pistoletto, Kounellis and Zorio. The city of Bari took part in the project with an exhibition at the Teatro Margherita entitled "Arte Povera in teatro". Finally, Bergamo's GAMEC has organised "Arte Povera in città", in which interventions by various artists occupy public spaces in the city's historical centre, involving and reinterpreting the urban fabric of the city itself in unexpected ways.

Event coordinators: Ilaria Giannetti and Luca Porqueddu

