

Alberto Sughi nella Collezione CSAC

21 December 2005 - 22 January 2006

Salone dei Contrafforti
Palazzo della Pilotta
Parma

Alberto Sughi, *City by night*, 1958



Alberto Sughi in the CSAC collection

A large retrospective exhibition of the work of Alberto Sughi, one of the most influential Italian artists since the 1950s, opens on December 21st at 6 p.m. and closes on January 22nd 2006. The exhibition contains 642 works, including paintings, tempera, drawings and lithographs, owned by the collections of the *Centro Studi ed Archivio della Comunicazione* (CSAC) at the University of Parma. It will include the large canvases *City by night* (1958), *People at the Supper* (1976) *Goodbye to the Red House* (1992) and *Rimmel* (2004).

The exhibition catalogue is published by Skira for the collection edited by CSAC, and it is introduced by two long reviews, by the Director of CSAC, Gloria Bianchino, and by Arturo Carlo Quintavalle, who have also organised the exhibition. The two reviews are followed by an interview with Alberto Sughi. The volume also includes a catalogue of Sughi's works and complete reproductions of all the paintings and drawings by Alberto Sughi owned by the CSAC.

Alberto Sughi: Biography

Alberto Sughi was born in Cesena in 1928. A self-taught painter, by the end of his formative years he had become one of the greatest Italian artists of his generation. He started painting in the early 1950s, choosing realism in the debate between abstract and figurative art in the immediate post-war period. Even from his early works, however, Sughi's paintings have avoided any attempt at social moralising. They depict moments

from daily life with no heroes, allowing Enrico Crispolti, in 1956, to define his work as "existential realism". His artistic expression proceeds, almost always, in thematic cycles, in the manner of film sequences. First of all, there were his so-called "green paintings", devoted to the relationship between man and nature (1971-1973), then the "Supper" cycle (1975-1976), after that the 20 paintings and fifteen studies of "Imagination and memory of the family", dating from the early 1980s; the series "Evening or reflection" started from 1985. His most recent series of large canvases, exhibited in 2000, is entitled "Nocturnal". Sughì has taken part in all the most important collective exhibitions of contemporary art, from the International *Biennale* art exhibition in Venice to the *Quadriennale* in Rome, as well as various exhibitions that have been held abroad, charting the history of Italian art from the 1970s until today. Italian and foreign museums have held large retrospective exhibitions; among the most significant are the Gallery of Modern Art in Bologna (1977), the Manezh Gallery in Moscow (1978), the Museum of Castel Sant' Angelo in Rome, the Fine Arts Museum in Budapest and the National Gallery in Prague (1986), the Civic Modern Art Gallery in Ferrara (1988), the *Casa Masaccio* in San Giovanni Valdarno (1990), the Assis Chateaubriand Art Gallery in Sao Paulo in Brazil (1994) and the Civic Museum of San Sepolcro (2003). The artist has taken part in the cycle of exhibitions entitled "The search for identity" in Cagliari, Palermo and Ascoli Piceno (2003-2004), the exhibition "Evil. Exercises in cruel painting" at the Hunting Lodge of Stupinigi, in Turin (2005), and the exhibition "Intimate Portraits from Lotto to Pirandello", at the Regional Archaeological Museum in Aosta (2005). In 1994, Alberto Sughì was appointed director of the *Ente Quadriennale Nazionale d'Arte* in Rome.

<http://www.albertosughi.com>

CSAC

Centro Studi ed Archivio della Comunicazione (CSAC) dell'Università di Parma

The Study Centre and Communication Archives at the University of Parma (CSAC) was founded in 1975 with the institutional aim of collecting, safe-guarding, preserving, cataloguing and for the consultation of cultural material. It is divided into five different sections: Art, Media, Projects, Photography and Performance.

The Alberto Sughì retrospective collection within the CSAC Collection is part of the activity of exploiting and presenting important trusts and collections of 20th century artists, including the following: Accardi, Afro, Bill, Birolli, Boero, Burri, Ceroli, Fontana, Guttuso, Morellet, Morlotti, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Schifano, Sughì, Tadini, Tilson, Vostell, Xiao and the great masters of photography, including Dorothea Lange, FSA Farm Security Administration, New Photography USA, Lee Friedkaber and Man Ray. CSAC carries out this activity with the help of contributions by museums and public and private institutions.

The exhibition hall:

Il Palazzo della Pilotta was built by the Farnese family between 1583 and 1622, and is now the home of the National Gallery, containing the Museo Archeologico Nazionale, the Teatro Farnese, the Biblioteca Palatina, La Galleria Nazionale and the Museo Bodoniano. It overlooks the recently restored Piazza della Pace

Il Salone delle Scuderie

The *Salone* can be reached from Piazzale Bodoni and has acted, for several decades, as an exhibition hall for temporary exhibitions organized by the Study Centre and Communication Archives at the University of Parma.

The Hall is also part of an art "district", situated in the so-called *Ala dei Contrafforti* ("Buttresses Wing") of the *Pilotta*, a university centre containing the Department of Cultural Heritage and Performance, a section of the Artistic Archaeological and Historical Heritage, the History of Art Library and the CSAC.

The *Ala dei Contrafforti* was the object of considerable restoration work in the 1970s, under the direction of the architect Guido Canali, who was also responsible for the restoration of the *Salone delle Scuderie* and its transformation into an exhibition hall. Further adaptations have subsequently been carried out to the hall, under the direction of Carlo Arturo Quintavalle and CSAC itself, to optimise its use for exhibitions.

Extracts:

From the article by Gloria Bianchino: [The structure of realism](#)

Sughi has historical awareness of artists from the past, and uses some historical forms and expressions to produce a new, different and highly effective synthesis, which clearly emerges in every preparatory sketch, as well as in the final works.

[Arturo Carlo Quintavalle: Alberto Sughi](#)

For this reason Sughi is a great narrator, not a great realist narrator, but rather a narrator who manages to transform apparently realist art into something sublime through new forms of abstraction or different styles, enabling us to understand every story better. Those stories are in his cycles of paintings, drawings, lithographs and engravings. In the end, Sughi's art is the art of the novel, of intimate confessions, of those that express the profound. So the tradition of storytelling connected to the post-Viennese world of psychoanalysis, of Kafka or Musil, more than Thomas Mann, can, I believe, help us to understand Alberto Sughi.

Links:

ALBERTO SUGHI: www.albertosughi.com

CSAC: <http://biblioteche2.comune.parma.it/BibParma/iperloc/csac.htm>

PALAZZO PILOTTA:

<http://www.artipr.arti.beniculturali.it/htm/Palazzo%20pilotta.htm>

Info: Tel. 0521/270847 – 270798; 282217

SKIRA: <http://www.skira.net>

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