



NICOLA DE MARIA

I fogli che il vento mi sparge sono disegni di vento e di animali

GAM – Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea
Exhibition Area – Via Magenta 31 – Turin

From 6 June to 29 September 2013

From 6 June, **GAM – Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea**, Turin, presents a **grand exhibition of works on paper by Nicola De Maria**, in the Exhibition Area on the first floor.

This sweeping anthology includes about **300 works** on paper from the 1970s to the present day. Nicola De Maria will be creating **a number of site-specific works** for this event at GAM: a massive mural (9 x 4 metres) and two large works on paper (5 x 2 metres), which show how works on paper created for a particular setting constitute a fundamental part of De Maria's art, together with some wall paintings.

The exhibition will examine the relationship between drawing and painted space, the fragility of paper and the monumentality of the wall, in a constant interaction of dimensions in which the song of drawing blends into the musicality of the wall.

Drawing is more than just the origin of all Nicola De Maria's art, for it almost acquires a life of its own, brimming with a spirituality that wells up directly from the colour. In an essay for the catalogue of the 1990 exhibition at the Saarland Museum in Saarbrücken, Germany, he writes: "My drawings are banners of joy and strength. The bells toll, unhappiness flees the world. My drawings are magical flowers, enchanted nightingales..."

De Maria made his first mural painting in Milan in 1977, and that year he made a second one for the Paris Biennale using the fresco technique of the Old Masters. Retracing that watershed moment, the artist says to Mirella Bandini, in an interview published in *Flash Art* in 1981: "I was also working on my first frescoes in that period, and I'm still stunned by the countless wonders I thought of and then experienced. The visionary power of a chariot that takes me far, the legend, not having travelled by sea, surrounded by animals, music-eyes – I still find it touching [...]"

The works on show come from leading museums, private collections and international galleries. A **selection of previously unexhibited works** from the artist's own archives will also be on display at GAM, together with works that have not been seen in public for many years or which are being shown for the first time ever in an Italian museum.

A major **catalogue published by Silvana Editoriale** accompanies the exhibition. As well as reproductions of all the works on display, it also contains a selection of illustrations of the most significant works made by Nicola De Maria during his artistic career.

The catalogue also contains **reprints of twenty critical essays** on the artist's work and **two essays written specially for this exhibition by Danilo Eccher**, director of GAM, and **Rudi Fuchs**, former director of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and of Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea.

Nicola De Maria (Foglianise, 1954) lives and works in Turin. He moved to the city in the early 1960s at the time of Arte Povera and conceptual art. In those early days, he worked with photography but soon took up painting and, in 1979, he was one of the five members of Transavanguardia, the movement theorised by Achille Bonito Oliva. His work differed from that of Clemente, Chia, Cucchi and Paladino in that it was based on abstraction.

His works have been shown at the 44th Venice Biennale, at documenta 7, at the Sao Paulo Biennale, at the Biennale of Sydney and at the Quadriennale in Rome, as well as in the world's most important museums and private institutions.

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Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Mondays. The ticket office closes one hour earlier

Admission: €10 – reduced € 8, under 18s free

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