

1st INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
MODELING AND PLASTER MOLD CASTING
May 28 – June 3, 2018
GIPSOTECA GIULIO MONTEVERDE
Bistagno (Alessandria), Italy

Premise n. 1 – Giulio Monteverde and the history of his Gipsoteca

The Gipsoteca di Bistagno is an extraordinary collection of original monumental plaster casts by the famous sculptor Giulio Monteverde who was born in Bistagno on 8 October 1837.

Monteverde studied in Genoa and moved permanently to Rome, where he began an intense career full of prestigious commissions, great achievements and international awards. He died on 3 October 1917, hoping that a museum dedicated to his sculptural career could be built in Genoa.

All the plaster models of Monteverde were then transferred from Rome to Genoa, where, however, the conditions necessary for the constitution of a monographic museum were lacking. The works were then moved to Bistagno, where in 2001 the Gipsoteca was inaugurated. In the last few years, the museological choices of the Gipsoteca are focused, mostly, on revealing the little known aspects of traditional sculptural techniques.

Premise n. 2 – the materials

Friable, soft and light, the plaster provides the sculptor – through complex molding operations – with a very detailed copy of the initial clay model which then becomes a model for future transpositions into more durable materials, such as marble or bronze. It is therefore a transitory material, yet at the same time it is the material that better than any other, holds the original imprint of the artist's ability and genius.

It's transience and fragility have been severely penalizing for conservation, resulting in many cases of destruction or dispersal of important artistic collections.

With it's institutional activities, the Gipsoteca of Bistagno wants to contribute by making known this important sculptural material, both expressive and fascinating, fragile and resistant, provisional and original.

The symposium

As a tribute to the theme of the Gipsoteca, the main materials of the symposium will therefore not be stone, marble or wood – as usually

happens – but clay for modeling and gypsum for casting.

In line with the strong educational vocation of the museum and with the customs of Monteverde (who often invited a selection of people to publicly assist in the transfer of clay models to plaster) the symposium's phases will be open to the public.

Participation

Participation is open to a maximum of 4 adult artists. The registration is open to sculptors of all nationalities, without age limit, holding a diploma or other artistic degree, or students of Art Institutes or Academies, or to artists who have already participated in other competitions, symposia or exhibitions of contemporary sculpture. In the case of students, a declaration of attendance by the home institution will be required.

Candidacy

Artists interested in participating in the competition are required to submit (with an email to info@gipsotecamonteverde.it):

- Curriculum vitae;
- Three examples of their works modeled in clay and made of plaster or other durable materials;
- the sketches of the work they intend to propose and the design concept, with the indication of the quantity of clay and plaster estimated for the realization of the work, as well as the need for irons, woods, wire, jute for the supporting structure.

The deadline for the application is on April the 22nd.

Applications will be evaluated by a competent jury, who will select the four participants.

The works

The works, which must be performed directly by the artists, can be all-round or in low relief: the limit of the size of the works is fixed in the measures of 1x1x1m.

The materials

The materials made available to the participants will be clay, gypsum, iron, wood, wire, jute for the supporting structure, according to the indications given by the candidates in the application.

The artists will also be invited to bring their own "toolbox" to be able to use the most appropriate tools for their work method, such as wires, modeling tools, cups for plaster, spatulas, etc.

Symposium course

The duration of the symposium is 7 days, from the morning of Monday 28 May to the morning of Sunday 3 June. The selected artists will have to create a work modeled in clay and proceed to the plaster cast according to traditional techniques. In addition to the materials (see previous item) they will be provided with: sculpture stands, tables and stools; electricity and water.

The place of the symposium

The work area will be outdoors, in the courtyard of the Gipsoteca, with the possibility of temporary shelter in the cinema/conference hall and in museum's educational workshop. Artists should be prepared for weather changes such as sudden rain or heat waves.

Award ceremony

The artists will receive a fee of € 500 as a refund and there will be an additional € 400 prize for the winning piece. The municipality of Bistagno reserves the ownership of the works carried out during the symposium.

The reception

Accommodation and meals will be offered by the organizers, involving the population or local businesses, while the return trip will have to be organized independently by the participants and will be their own responsibility.

Schedule of the week

The program includes a first reception and a visit to the museum, as well as an introduction to the work and living spaces. In the course of the week, a few occasions for sharing, presentation and visits to cultural sites of artistic interest will also be organized.

The award ceremony will take place on the afternoon of the final Sunday.

Further details will be communicated on the Museum's website and on the related page fb.

Contacts

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