

# EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

CRETA, CRETA MIA...

## IN-DEPTH WORKSHOP ON LEONCILLO LEONARDI

"CLAY, MY CLAY..."

Sculpture workshop

## PATH OF IN-DEPTH STUDY



#### WAY BACK TO GUBBIO

«Leoncillo . Ritorno a Gubbio' is the major exhibition on Leoncillo Leonardi (1915-1968), an artist that we can consider as one of the major protagonists of international sculpture in the 1900s, among the greatest exponents of Informal Art.

We speak of "return" because it is precisely in Gubbio that two of Leoncillo's most significant and famous works, winners of the first prize at the Gubbio Biennial in 1959 and 1962, are exhibited and conserved.

The two sculptures were purchased by the Municipality of Gubbio and are on permanent display at the Ducal Palace in Gubbio.





## LEONCILLO LEONARDI



## LEONCILLO LEONARDI

Leoncillo Leonardi (Spoleto 1915 - Rome 1968) is undoubtedly one of the most famous sculptors of the 20th century, as his important appearances at national and international exhibitions, solo shows in the most prestigious Italian galleries of the time and the attention of the major art critics of his time testify.

The son of a dialectal poet, he found in his elder brother Lionello a faithful supporter, who not by chance gave him the first block of clay from which his work as a sculptor would spring.

Throughout his artistic production, he exclusively used CERAMIC as the material for his sculptures, inventing or manipulating techniques and colour processes.

Giving a clean break to his initial naturalistic, expressionist and neo-Cubist production, between 1956 and 1957 he made the great leap towards Informalism, of which he can be said to be one of the absolute protagonists in sculpture in Italy.

## **INFORMAL ART**

Informal art is an artistic-pictorial current of the late 1940s, which is divided into three groups: gestural, material and sign.

After the Second World War, a profound crisis destroyed confidence in art and its languages. Not only did the beauty of form seem distant and useless, but also the experiences of the avant-gardes (Cubism, Dadaism) seemed outdated.

Thus began a profound search by artists for new ways of expressing themselves, different from the previous ones. A path that starts again from the individual, from the unique, special relationship of the artist with his work

But what does informal mean?

Painting, sculpting, shaping without form, that is, without already having the work in mind, but improvising on the wave of emotions with an unseen spontaneity, without recognisable figures, without perspective or geometry; and above all letting colours and materials become the real protagonists.

The artist only follows his instinct, completely independent of the judgments of critics and the public.

## LEONCILLO. "RITORNO A GUBBIO"

The exhibition is presented as a touring route that also involves visiting other exhibition venues in the city:

- Logge dei Tiratori (main venue)
- Diocesan Museum,
- -Ducal Palace,
- -Park Hotel ai Cappuccini.

## LOGGE DEI TIRATORI

The main venue presents some of his best-known works, accompanied by preparatory sketches both in ceramics and on paper.



## DIOCESAN MUSEUM

The Diocesan Museum houses a work from a private collection, the Caryatid of 1945, on display in the refectory room.



#### DUCAL PALACE

Ducal Place houses two large sculptures by Leoncillo, among the most spectacular and important outcomes of his final phase, acquired in the 1960s through the Gubbio Sculpture Prize



#### PARK HOTEL AI CAPPUCCINI

The Park Hotel ai Cappuccini presents a number of works, predominantly from his Roman novitiate and the neo-Cubist season, focused on the renewal of so-called 'applied art', to the point of anticipating the later results of 'antidesign'.

## THE LAB



## THE LAB

Following in the footsteps of the artist Leoncillo, we will try our hand at the art of sculpture, through the manipulation of clay.

The workshop has two main aims:

To understand Leoncillo's art and artistic journey;

To develop creativity through research, experimentation and the development of ideas by trying out different techniques

#### WHAT WE NEED?

- -A block of clay
- -Creativity!



Handling clay is a spontaneous creative activity that gives rise to continuous discoveries, emotions and ever-changing creations.

Clay offers endless expressive possibilities and provides unlimited space for the manifestation of one's creativity and emotions.

Have fun!

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