

Fondazione Centro Studi Licia e Carlo Ludovico Raggianti

Creativa Produzione

Tuscany and Italian Design 1950-1990

June 13th - November 1st 2015

Curators Gianni Pettena, Davide Turrini, Mauro Lovi

Opening Friday June 12th, 6 pm

The idea of dedicating an exhibition to Tuscan design, comes as part of the initiative *Piccoli Grandi Musei 2015. Toscana '900. Musei e Percorsi d'arte*, with the support of the Lucca Cassa di Risparmio Foundation.

Curated by Gianni Pettena, Davide Turrini and Mauro Lovi, the exhibition intends to present the production firms which in many areas have taken root in Tuscany and have contributed to the image of contemporary Italian design in the world.

Through the work of important Italian and international designers, the exhibition emphasizes the vital role of the productive realities of the region, pointing out their ability to select and attract talents, especially from the world of art and architecture, and define with them the design and construction of objects and everyday products. The exhibition features and is divided into various sectors of production: furniture, everyday objects in porcelain, ceramic, glass and crystal, marble design and graphics.

The research in design, which developed from the mid-Fifties, was also influenced by the work of protagonists of the design culture such as Michelucci, the Gruppo Toscano, Gio Ponti, Angiolo Mazzoni, Richard Neutra, Adalberto Libera, Corradino D'Ascanio,.

After the first industrial companies such as Piaggio (with the Vespa scooter) and Richard-Ginori, furniture and furnishings production firms such as Poltronova and Martinelli start moving in a direction strongly marked by experimentation, and are later joined by Planula, Giovannetti and, since the Eighties, Edra.

Poltronova, with Ettore Sottsass as art director, also produces, besides furniture, lamps and objects and furnishings in ceramic and marble. In the same years Bitossi has important collaborations with Ettore Sottsass, Remo Buti, Marco Zanini and Matteo Thun. For the production of objects in marble, after the experimentations of Officina at the end of the Sixties, other realities were born such as Up & Up and Ultima Edizione where, after Up and Up, Sottsass, Grawunder, Zanini and Thun will end up designing. Marble objects are also produced by Casigliani, where, among others, Lella and Massimo Vignelli and Site worked.

As for works in glass and crystal Manciola, Colle Vilca ed Egizia stand out for their collaborations with great designers. In the Eighties the artisan company Fantacci located in Prato, which had produced pieces of furniture by Michelucci for Poltronova, starts, through a partnership with the Michelucci Foundation, to manufacture more furniture designed by the great architect. .

In more recent years, of particular importance is the production of ceramic of Alessio Sarri reintroducing historic collaborations such as that with Sottsass together with Alessando Mendini, Matteo Thun, Jasper Morrison, Gorge Sowden, and still working at present with young Italian and international designers. Always open to new collaborations, the Pampaloni silverware company produces objects, among others, by Binazzi (UFO), Nigel Coates, Massimo Morozzi, Andrea Branzi and Frank Gehry.

Then, a famous firm located in Lucca, Martinelli Luce, that started its activity in the late postwar period and is still active today, and the self-productions by Binazzi (UFO), Lovi, Pettena and Salvetti.

Moreover, an analysis is made on how the world of graphic design is structured in Tuscany and in Lucca where, for example, Piero Menichetti and the graphics studio Ai Granai work.

The exhibition also presents some works of young designers made in the years Twentieths in order to demonstrate how the “creative production” is still a present and ongoing experience.

Exhibition location:

Fondazione Centro Studi Ragghianti

Complesso Monumentale di San Micheletto, 3 Via San Micheletto, Lucca

www.fondazioneragghianti.it