

ROSANNA CHIESSI, HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC ARCHIVE PARI&DISPARI

“A history of Pari&Dispari should be, like its activity, a continuous flow of incessant work, relationships, shows, exhibitions, performances, friendships, invitations, weddings, trains full of artists and art works, stopped at the frontier, lucky and paradoxical coincidences, uncessful opportunities, while others expected and occurred, letters, dedications, extraordinary ideas, money lost and suddenly refound and created again, concerts, parties, surprising meetings, cooperations among artists speaking different languages, pianos in pieces, unusual instruments, cellos played by a naked girl, glass vases full of poetry cards, legs, arms and bodies playing the keys of a classical instrument in an anticonservative way, lambs disembowelled in almost magical and debunking rituals: “performance” is an art flavouring spontaneity and unicity, as well as all natural and humanevents, here inserted in a real life frame”.

This is how Corrado Costa and Fiorenza Sarzi Amade’ effectively described the history of Pari&Dispari and their friend Rosanna.

Rosanna, exactly as she had lived, supplied documentary evidence to her intensive activity producing photo albums, memories testifying an artistic and cultural experience of avant-garde militancy, documents revealing her front line work and her enthusiastic envelopment.

Thousands of photos, negative films, slides, videos since mid-sixties to the first years of 2000 were classified in 47 photo albums indexed, dated, commented, balancing between art and real life, enabling to grasp the artistic and historical spirit of the time.

This collection, named “ROSANNA CHIESSI, HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC ARCHIVE PARI&DISPARI”, is the fruit of Rosanna’s 40 years old passionate work and is now donated to Biblioteca Panizzi, Reggio Emilia Municipality, to be preserved at disposal of contemporary art scholars.

Rosanna lived so many lives, cooperated with Italian conceptual artists, Visual poets, Viennese Actionism, Fluxus, Gutai, but was always deeply rooted to her native environment in Reggio Emilia. She was really and completely satisfied when realizing her plans in Reggio Emilia.

The establishment of these Archives at Biblioteca Panizzi matches with her feelings. She would surely smile thinking her archives are so close to Corrado Costa’s ones.

Activity notes

Rosanna Chiessi (1934-2016) starts her activity with Il Portico art Gallery in Reggio Emilia, producing informal and optical works; soon afterwards she founds the visual poetry magazine “Amodulo” and at the end of the sixties, she starts her activity as an Editor. In 1971 she founds “Pari and Dispari Publishers in Reggio Emilia. After a few years of cooperation with conceptual Italian artists visual poets and body-artists, she starts her activity not only as a publisher, but as an events, festivals. exhibitions promoter and takes part to the most important international fairs. In 1973 she is in contact with the Fluxus movement and the Viennese Actionism. Along with these

movements she produces rare editions, exhibitions, events, performances, installations. From 1976 to 1989 the most important Viennese Actionism, Fluxus movement and Italian avant-garde artists attend her house in Cavriago and several international festivals are held involving the whole town. In the nineties Rosanna Chiessi lives at Malaparte residence in Capri, where she organizes cultural events and happenings and invites artists like Allan Kaprow, Hermann Nitsch e Mimmo Rotella. In 2000 she opens the Pari&Dispari gallery in Berlin, soon afterwards "Art in Progress" and works in the German capital till 2002. In 2005 Rosanna Chiessi is in touch with the Japanese artistic movement Gutai and in 2007 she founds "SHIMAMOTO ASSOCIATION" with Peppe Morra and Shozo Shimamoto. Their aim is to organize international events, to warrant works authenticity, to promote and support Shozo Shimamoto's artistic research. The Master has become well known through performances all over the world (Napoli, Certosa di Capri, Punta Campanella, Museo Magi, Palazzo Ducale Genova, Palazzo Magnani Reggio Emilia, ecc).

These artists cooperated and produced editions, single works included in the Archives Pari & Dispari: Rafael Alberti, Eric Andersen, Chema Alvagonzales, Nanni Balestrini, Franco Beltrametti, Ennio Bianco, Raffaele Biolchini, Giulio Bizzarri, Vito Boggeri, Antonino Bove, Guenter Bruss, Giuseppe Chiari, Heinz Cibulka, Fabrizio Cocchia, Augusto Concato, Costantino Ciervo, Philip Corner, Corrado Costa, Giovanni D'Agostino, Luciano D'alexandro, Riccardo Dalisi, Jakob De Chirico, Giuseppe Desiato, Baldo Diodato, Ugo Dossi, Simone Forti, Omar Galliani, Francesco Garbelli, Marco Gastini, Maurizio Goldoni-Lucio Dalla, Peter Goi, Coco Gordon, Paolo Grassino, Gruppo Alternativo di Napoli, Silvia Guberti, Franco Guerzoni, Giancarlo Guidotti, Al Hansen, Guy Harloff, Geoff Hendricks, Dick Higgins, Kurt Hofer, Hsiao, Hyo Soo Kim, Pietro Iori, Georg Jappe, Joe Jones, Roland Junker, Allan Kaprow, Milan Knizak, Alison Knowles, Labart Charlotte e Jenny, Rita Linz, Daniele Lombardi, Arrigo Lora Totino, Urs Luthi, Jackson Mac Low, Luigi Mainolfi, Mario Mariotti, Plinio Mesciulam, Eugenio Miccini, Valerio Miroglio, Charlotte Moorman, Giovanni Mundula, Hermann Nitsch, Ann Noel, Morgan O'Hara, Nam June Paik, Claudio Parmiggiani, Ben Patterson, Bruno Picariello, Vivaldo Poli, Graziano Pompili, Arnulf Rainer, Margareth Raspè, Angela Ricci Lucchi, Anton Roca, Mimmo Rotella, Dieter Roth, Giovanni Rubino, Gerard Ruhm, Takako Saito, Carolee Schneemann, Rudolf Schwarzkogler, Mieko Shiomi, Denis Santachiara, Adriano Spatola, Daniel Spoerri, Ugo Sterpini, Takada, Giuseppe Tariello, Franco Vaccari, Paul van Hoeydonck, Enrico Viggiano, Marino Vismara, Wolf Vostell, Dieter Wallert, Bob Watts, Emmett Williams, William Xerra, Yoko Ono, Miro Zagnoli, Ampelio Zappalorto, Yufen Qin, Shozo Shimamoto, AY-O, Yasuo Sumi, Ukita.

Pierre Restany, Renato Barilli, Emilio Villa, Eugenio Miccini, Franco Vaccari, Valerio Dehò, Corrado Costa, Ivanna Rossi, Elena Zanichelli, etc..wrote about Rosanna Chiessi.

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