Kido, il suo Batik, la sua Arte

Kido, His Batik, His Art

16 March – 18 April 2019

The exhibition opens at Studio Cenacchi, Via Santo Stefano 63, Bologna, on Saturday 16 March at 6 pm.

Kido, His Batik, His Art celebrates a singular artist whose extraordinarily varied career spanned fifty years. His work ranged from designing garments for leading Italian fashion designers to directing, designing sets and creating costumes for countless theatrical productions; from abstract batiks to highly refined figurative works, including his *Madonne*; and from ceramics to the exuberant *Bambolone*, made both in batik and padded fabric.

Kido chose batik, the ancient Indonesian technique of decorating fabric, as his preferred medium because of its exceptional creative freedom. He developed a personal approach, exploiting the cracks formed as the wax dried and layering additional processes onto silk already decorated using batik. By combining batik with his own painterly techniques, he introduced subtle tonal variations that gave his fabrics a depth and richness rarely encountered, either then or now, even within Eastern traditions.

Two events accompany the exhibition. On Thursday 28 March at 6 pm, Carlo Lucarelli, a longstanding friend and theatrical collaborator of Kido Emiliani, will discuss the artist and his work.

On Friday 12 April at 6.30 pm, Roberto Bartoli, who teaches double bass and ensemble playing at the Nuova Scuola Comunale di Musica in Imola and conducts its student orchestra, will perform his own compositions in memory of his friend Kido Emiliani. Afterwards, Tiaso Bioviticoltori, founded three years earlier by Olimpia Bussani and Fausto Diamanti, will offer visitors a tasting of Tiaso (100% Sangiovese) and Liberté (a blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon).

KIDO EMILIANI (1941–2017)

Kido Emiliani was born in Faenza, in Romagna. After finishing secondary school, he trained privately at two institutions: the G. Ballardini School of Ceramics and the T. Minardi Municipal School of Drawing, directed by the renowned sculptor and ceramicist Domenico Matteucci. It was here that students from Sri Lanka introduced him to batik.

Kido made the technique his own, notably by adding further decoration to silk, cotton and other natural fabrics after the wax had been removed.

In 1966 he moved to Milan. Encouraged by the painter Lucio Fontana, whom he met in Brera, and encountering figures such as Enrico Baj, Alberto Arbasino and Dino Buzzati, he held an important and successful exhibition at the Circolo della Stampa in 1968. He opened a studio in the Porta Nuova district and began working in fashion, collaborating with designers including Valentino, Ferré, Krizia and Balestra.

Having left the fashion world behind in the late 1970s, he returned to Romagna and settled in Imola. There he established a studio-workshop and worked with architects and interior designers, devoting himself to painterly and decorative experimentation with fabric, one of his greatest artistic interests. For a considerable period this work absorbed him so completely that he held no solo exhibitions.

He experimented with layered mixed-media and batik techniques to produce decorative panels, tapestries and furnishings. He revisited trompe-l'œil and hand-printing on fabric, creating patterns distinct from traditional Romagna designs, and also returned to ceramics.

The female figure held a special place in Kido's art. With humour and playfulness, he developed a recurring character, seen in exhibitions such as *Concubine*: women depicted in mixed-media drawings whom he described as 'pleasure-loving, mischievous, irreverent…'. These figures later evolved, through different techniques and versions, into his *Bambolone*, which featured in numerous works and exhibitions. His increasing engagement with figuration also produced one of his most refined works, *Madonna and Child*.

Theatre was another central and much-loved part of Kido's practice. He began as a young student alongside his friend Mario Zoli, working for many years with the Alterego company and later with the Associazione delle Feste. With the latter, he participated for more than fifteen years in the medieval festivals of Brisighella, staging numerous productions written by Carlo Lucarelli. Kido and Lucarelli's longstanding friendship enabled them to work together in theatre for many years. Kido also directed the Teatro Comunale di Mordano, first with the Compagnia delle Feste and later with the Compagnia Teatro Stabile di Mordano.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

1968 — *Batik*, Circolo della Stampa, Milan.

1975 — *Batik*, outdoor exhibition, Sperlonga.

1977 — *Storie in batik animate da un Mimo*, Loggetta del Trentanove / Studio Muky–Matteucci, Faenza.

1987 — *Tarocchi*, Ferrara.

1995 — *Batik*, Compiano.

2006 — *Disegno (Concubine)*, Fontanonearte, Faenza.

2009 — *Batik (Madonne e Bambolone)*, Loggetta del Trentanove, Faenza.

2010 — *Batik e Le 4 stagioni*, Studio d'architettura Bartolini, Castel San Pietro Terme; mixed-media drawings accompanied by four short stories by Carlo Lucarelli.

2012 — *Batik*, Loggetta del Trentanove, Faenza.

2014 — *Batik*, Magazzini del Sale, Cervia.

2014 — First Prize, Latina Biennale of Contemporary Art.

STUDIO CENACCHI

Studio Cenacchi was founded in 2016 out of Jacopo Cenacchi's research into and passion for contemporary art. The gallery occupies 160 square metres across three floors of the sixteenth-century Palazzo Ghiselli Vasselli, at Via Santo Stefano 63 in central Bologna.

The gallery presents artists working across a wide range of media and maintains direct relationships with them, placing particular emphasis on the quality of the works it exhibits. Its programme encompasses established and contemporary artists from Italy and abroad.

Studio Cenacchi also provides art advisory services for the acquisition of works of art, including visits to clients' homes and professional premises to develop bespoke proposals for displaying art in domestic and working environments.

www.studiocenacchi.com

STUDIO CENACCHI ARTE CONTEMPORANEA — Jacopo Cenacchi

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Tuesday to Saturday, 3.30–7 pm, or by appointment