

Hans-Joachim Staude (1904-1973)

Un pittore europeo in Italia

Edited by Francesco Poli, Elena Pontiggia und Jakob Staude

Format cm 19,5 x 26,5, 168 S., 140 images in color and 20 in b/w

Publisher: Centro Di, Florence 2017.

ISBN 9788 8703 8546 5. **28 €**

This book is the outcome of a conference held in November 2015 at the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice, where eleven Italian and German art historians discussed an intensive, historical and critical appraisal of Hans-Joachim Staude's life and work. A small but significant exhibition of paintings documenting his entire artistic evolution was also part of the event.

Even though an important retrospective had already been realized in 1996 at Palazzo Pitti in Florence, initiating a due reappraisal of Staude's work, a deeper analysis of his particular closeness to the painting of the Italian Novecento within the frame of modern classicism during the Twenties and Thirties, from Ardengo Soffici to Felice Carena, was still pending – a profound relationship which perhaps makes xx Staude the most "Italian" of the German painters of his period.

While in recent times the art of the Twenties and Thirties, not only in Italy, but throughout the whole of Europe, received an historical and critical re-appraisal of the main aspects of a "Return to order" (Staude can also be related to this cultural climate, albeit in a very autonomous way), his oeuvre remained at the margins of this research so far.

Of considerable value also, are the sensitive, and at the same time, intense paintings which Staude, after the Second World War, developed until the end of his life in solitary isolation. This part of his work has still been largely unexplored.

The various conference contributions address, not only, the various aspects of his artistic quest, his great love for classic art, the most important modern influences, the most significant stages of his biography and his dedicated activity as a teacher, but also, the complex and fascinating traits of his personality, characterized by a profound humanistic, philosophical and literary culture, and especially by a passion for music, which is not at all inferior to his passion for figurative arts. He was also a brilliant pianist and also a composer.

In addition to Francesco Poli and Elena Pontiggia, the two curators of the event, the art historians Susanna Ragionieri, Nicoletta Colombo, Monica Vinardi, Thomas Baumeister, Carlo Sisi, Reinhard Wegner, Nico Stringa, Lorella Giudici, and the musician Dario Paolini have contributed to the book. Besides these writings emerging from xxx contributions to the original conference, an impressive conversation between Neera Fallaci and Hans-Joachim Staude was added to the volume about Staude's very special scholar, and later priest, Lorenzo Milani, and the significance of teaching, which played a fundamental role in the lives of both of them.

The book goes far beyond the usual conference proceedings. With its comprehensive selection of reproduced works and its extensive supplementary notes, it rather has the character of a real monograph on Hans-Joachim Staude

Francesco Poli, Elena Pontiggia

www.staude.it