

WHY AN ARCHIVE?

Antonio Scaccabarozzi (Merate-Lecco, 1936 - Santa Maria Hoè-Lecco, 2008) is representative of an analytical and conceptual painting's research. He has developed a coherent language in more than forty years, aimed to analyze the fundamentals of visual through a phenomenological-mathematical research about color and space. From the 80s his painting has been thus divided and developed in cycles: after the first experiences in neo-concrete and programmed arts in the 1960s, and the analytical work of the 1970s, Scaccabarozzi defined his Weltanschauung through a conceptual and lyrical work, in which the act of painting has been always translated into a passionate comparison between measure, calculation, project, freedom and emotion.

He is known mainly in the Northern Europe where his works were displayed at the greatest institutional exhibitions. Today Scaccabarozzi is known as ambassador of Italian painting in Switzerland, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands between the '70s and '90s. Basing his research on the heritage of the post-war avant-gardes, he worked on the meaning of monochrome and on the zeroing and ontology of painting in its space-time relationship. Thanks to these researches, he developed an individual language that is still now rich of contemporary aspects.

His methodical approach to arts brought Scaccabarozzi to noting and writing every detail of his works, thus encouraging and developing the today analysis. His meticulousness in keeping alive the "roots and traces" of his works is similar to the goals of an archive: preserving, cataloguing and transmitting to the public and scholars – in the future – an ideal and a way of working characterized by precision, poetry, passion and control.

THE FIRST STEPS AND THE MEANING OF THE ARCHIVE

Basing on these principles, in 2010 was born the Antonio Scaccabarozzi Archive, two years after the artist's death. Anastasia Rouchota, as unique heir and artist's wife, founded the Archive with the goals of cataloguing, preserving and authenticating his work, and also growing the knowledge and display.

If this mission is today shared with the others artists archives, it is to stressed the peculiar goal of the Antonio Scaccabarozzi Archive: its independence from the market logic.

Another similarity between the artist and his Archive is that both refused the control by other people: Scaccabarozzi didn't depend on market and critics, but he had always looked for a personal and nonconformist research. At the same way, the Archive doesn't follow the choices of gallerists and art dealers, but collaborates with them if they want developing and sharing a long-term projects based on sharing and researching.

A gallery is mainly focused on the selling of art works; while an archive needs to have the works for historicizing the artist. Sometimes, the works considered by the Archive of pivotal importance are not appreciated by the collectors and dealers, and this determines the lost of interest by the gallerist .

The positive archive-gallery relationship requires that the gallery buys art works to increase the heritage of the Archive and invests time and money before watching an effective benefit.

A NEW BEGINNING

After three years from the establishment of the Archive, Anastasia Rouchota expanded Archive's activities with collaboration with galleries and institutions, both Italian and international.

Thanks this choice, the Archive and artist's works increased their value by the public, enriching the market and changing the evaluation by the institutions.

The funds from the sales has been invested in the most important goal of the Archive: production and promotion of cultural events (solo and group exhibitions, restoration, workshops, scholarships), the publication of the first artist's monograph (*Antonio Scaccabarozzi. Io sono pittore/I am a painter/Ich bin Maler* edited by Flaminio Gualdoni, headed by Anastasia Rouchota and published by Corraini Editions) and the establishing of a team for the editing of the on-line Catalogue Raisonné. The team is composed of Ilaria Bignotti (curator), Anastasia Rouchota and Flaminio Gualdoni (co-curators), Camilla Tosca (assistant) and Camilla Remondina (assistant).

Moreover, the Archive supports study and research, so it gathers documents and informations about the artist and makes them available to scholars, helping them to their researches and thesis.

In this sense, the Archive is open to collaborations with others archives to show what they do to promote contemporary artists, thus being a pivotal model for the valorization process, according to the newest ways of working.

In 2016 was founded the "Associazione Archivio Antonio Scaccabarozzi", sharing the mission of the artist's archive.

Each principles of the Archive are represented in the way of thinking of Anastasia Rouchota: "It is important looking, methodically, in the innermost part of the artist: understanding more and more gives a precious taste to the pleasure."