

On the Activity of the Foundation Giorgio and Isa de Chirico

The Giorgio and Isa de Chirico was founded in 1986 by Isabella Far de Chirico, the widow of the celebrated painter, and Claudio Bruni Sakraischik, curator of the General Catalogue, with the objective of safeguarding the intellectual and artistic identity of Giorgio de Chirico. In 1987 Isabella Far de Chirico donated 24 works by her husband to the Italian state, which then became part of the collection at the National Gallery of Modern Art of Rome.

Upon the demise of Isabella Far, in November 1990 in Rome, the Foundation inherited the painter's home and most of his artistic patrimony.

In August of 1991 Claudio Bruni Sakraischik passed away, leaving his precious Giorgio de Chirico archive to the Foundation.

In 1993, the Giorgio and Isa de Chirico Foundation legally obtained legal rights to the name and personage of Giorgio de Chirico and thus the authorization to accept his remaining works. From that time, the Foundation has actively involved itself in cultural activities of various types, in order to carry out the following objectives:

- the collecting and conserving of documentation pertaining to the complex of de Chirico's works (in its globality of pictorial expression, his graphic works, his sculptures and literary works);
- the continuation of the archives of his authentic works, with the objective of contrasting them with the phenomenon of fake de Chiricos;
- the institutionalization of fellowships and scholarships to develop knowledge of de Chirico and in-depth studies of his art;
- the promotion of exhibitions and conferences on a national and international level, and the publication of works and research concerning the painter.

The House/Museum. In November of 1998, on the twentieth anniversary of the death of Giorgio de Chirico, the Foundation opened the doors of his home in Piazza di Spagna, Rome – a small, eighteenth-century Borgognoni palazzo – to the public, transforming it into a “house-museum”.

For the occasion, an International Conference of Studies was organized at the Giulio Cesare Hall in the Senatorio Palazzo, in the Piazza di Campidoglio in Rome,

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presided over by Professor Maurizio Calvesi, where a number of internationally famous researchers and personalities from the political and cultural worlds gave talks. In the organization of the museum, special scientific and philological attention was given to restoring the rooms. In this way, the vast salon which looks on to the Piazza, the sumptuous dining room, the bedrooms on the upper level and the studio where the Master worked, his books, his paints, his paintbrushes and the last painting in its draft form on the easel, have all come back to life. This is a unique museum, not only because no other space in the world is dedicated entirely to the inventor of metaphysical painting, but above all because it is the house in which de Chirico lived from 1947 until his death.

The artistic patrimony of the Foundation consists of numerous paintings, drawings, sculptures and lithographs, and what remains of his published and unpublished manuscripts, along with Claudia Bruni Sakraischik's photographic and documentary archive, which are accessible thanks to the opening of the House-Museum, as well as due to the organization of events and exhibitions meant to promote the celebrated artist's works.

Among the numerous exhibitions organized (1) and sponsored (2) or to which the Foundation has loaned the artist's works, are the following - just to mention those of these past few years:

1) San Marino, De Chirico - *La nuova Metafisica*, catalogue edited by M. Calvesi and M. Ursino, April 27 - September 27 1995; Andros-Volos, *Giorgio de Chirico e le mythe grec*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, October 1 - November 26 1995; Valle d'Aosta - Centro Saint- Bénin of Aosta, *Giorgio de Chirico e il mito 1920-1970*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, 1996; Vicenza, *Giorgio de Chirico. I gioielli dalla pittura*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, January 12 -19 1997; Sao Paolo, Brazil - Museo Brasileiro da Escultura, *Giorgio de Chirico. Pinturas e esculturas*, catalogue edited by A. Bonito Oliva, March 16 - April 28 1998; Colonnella, *Giorgio de Chirico. Il mito, le armi e l'eroe*, catalogue edited by D. Guzzi, July 18 - August 30 1998; Taranto, *De Chirico. La Metafisica del Mediterraneo*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, December 7 1998-January 28 1999, English version of catalogue, *De Chirico and the Mediterranean*, 1998; Lubiana, *Giorgio de Chirico*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, April 20 - June 18 1999; Buenos Aires - Borges Cultural Centre, *De Chirico. Metafisica del tiempo/ Metafisica del tempo*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, April 4 - June 12 2000; Milan - Spazio Oberdan, *Giorgio de Chirico. La Metafisica del Mediterraneo*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, November 23 2000 - February 11 2001; Charleroi - Palais des Beaux Arts, *Giorgio de Chirico. Les dix dernières années. 1968-1978*, and *L'Apocalypse*, catalogues edited by L. Busine, February 4 - May 13 2001.

2) Venice, *De Chirico nel centenario della nascita*, catalogue edited by M. Calvesi, October 1 1988 - January 15 1989; Tokyo-Kagawa-Osaka, *Giorgio de Chiri-*

co 1888-1978, 1989-1990; Seville-Ischia-Catania-Palermo, *De Chirico. Don Chisciotte della Mancia. Dipinti, bozzetti ed illustrazioni*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, 1992-1993; Rome - Palazzo delle Esposizioni, *Giorgio de Chirico. Pictor Optimus*, catalogue edited by F. Benzi, December 16 1992 - February 8 1993; Genoa - Palazzo Ducale, *Giorgio de Chirico. Pictor Optimum. Pittura disegno teatro*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, March 13 - May 30 1993; New York - Milan, *Betraying the Muse. De Chirico and the Surrealist*, catalogue edited by P. Baldacci, April 21 - May 28 1994; New York - Hunter College of the City University, *Giorgio de Chirico and America*, catalogue edited by E. Braun, 1996; Acqui Terme - Palazzo Liceo Saracco, *Vita Silente. Giorgio de Chirico dalla Metafisica al Barocco*, catalogue edited by M. Fagiolo dell'Arco, July 19 - September 14 1997; Zurich-Munich-Berlin, *Arnold Böcklin - Giorgio de Chirico - Max Ernst. Eine Reise ins Ungewisse, 1997-1998*; Vicenza, Giorgio de Chirico. *Metafisica dei Bagli misteriosi*, catalogue edited by M. Fagiolo dell'Arco, June 6 - September 13 1998; Verona - Museo di Castelvechio, *De Chirico. Gli anni Trenta*, catalogue edited by M. Fagiolo dell'Arco, December 1998 - February 28 1999.

On October 15-16, 1999 in Rome, a conference at the IRI auditorium was held: "Nulla sine tragoedia gloria - L'opera di Giorgio de Chirico attraverso la storiografia contemporanea", curated by IRI Central Direction of General Affairs and External Relations, sponsored by the Foundation (Proceedings published by Shakespeare and Company 2 in 2002).

The Foundation has edited the publication of three important writings of the artist: the republication of *Memorie della mia vita* with a preface by Prof. Carlo Bo, available through Tascabili Bompiani 2002, the "metaphysical" novel *Ebdòmero* and the newly published *Il Signor Dusdron*, Ed. Le Lettere, 1998, artistic testimony by Giorgio de Chirico, published in an unabridged version for the first time; a German translation of *Il Signor Dusdron*, Verlag Gachnang & Springer AG, Bern 2000, a reprint of *Il piccolo trattato di tecnica pittorica*, edited by Jole de Sanna, Libri Scheiwiller, 2001; a French translation of *Il piccolo trattato di tecnica pittorica*, Somogy Editions d'Art 2001; a reprint of *Commedia dell'arte*, by Giorgio de Chirico and Isabella Far, ed. Abscondita, edited by Jole de Sanna, 2002. Its archival activity has continued with regards to works retained authentic (circa 700 from 1993 including paintings, drawings and sculptures). It has awarded about 15 scholarships and fellowships.