

THE GIORGIO AND ISA DE CHIRICO FOUNDATION

The Giorgio e Isa de Chirico Foundation was founded in 1986 by Isabella Far de Chirico (the famous painter's widow) 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 twenty-four works by her husband to the Italian State, which entered into the National Gallery of Modern Art's collection in Rome.

Upon Isabella Far's demise in November 1990, Rome, the Foundation inherited the painter's home and the majority of his artistic patrimony. In August 1991, Claudio Bruni Sakraischik passed away, leaving the Foundation his carefully-compiled archive on Giorgio de Chirico.

In 1993, the Giorgio e Isa de Chirico Foundation obtained legal status recognition, and therefore the authorisation to accept the remaining patrimony. From then onwards, the Foundation has actively been involved in cultural activities of various types, with the aim of carrying out the following objectives:

- the collection and conservation of documentation regarding the entirety of de Chirico's work (including his pictorial, graphical, sculptural and literary expression);
- the continuation of archiving authentic works by the artist in order to help check the phenomenon of counterfeits;
- the institution of fellowships and scholarships to promote knowledge on 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 academic studies concerning the painter.

The de Chirico House-museum

On the 20th anniversary of Giorgio de Chirico's death in November 1998, the Foundation opened his Roman home (the 18th Century Palazzetto dei Borgognoni, Piazza di Spagna) as a "house-museum" to the general public.

To mark the occasion, an International Conference of Studies was organised at the Giulio Cesare Hall in the Senatorio Palazzo, at Piazza di Campidoglio in Rome. As well as Prof. Maurizio Calvesi, who presided over the conference, a number of internationally famous academics also participated. With regard to the setting-up and organisation of the museum, special philological care was taken to restore the rooms back to their original state. Consequently, the vast living room which looks onto the piazza, the sumptuous dining room, the bedrooms on the upper level and the artist's studio (containing his books, paints, paintbrushes and easel with unfinished painting), have been brought back to life. The *de Chirico House-museum* is truly unique as it is the only museum dedicated to the inventor of Metaphysical painting in the very house where the artist lived from 1947 until his death.

The Foundation's artistic patrimony consists of a permanent collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures and lithographs, published and unpublished manuscripts by the artist, as well as Claudio Bruni Sakraischik's photographic and documentary archive. Thanks to the opening of the *House-museum* and the organisation of events and exhibitions, these have now been made accessible to the public.

Amongst the numerous exhibitions that the Foundation has organised (1) and fully-supported (2) or has lent works to are:

1) San Marino, *De Chirico - La nuova Metafisica*, catalogue edited by M. Calvesi and M. Ursino, 27th April-27th September 1995; Andros-Volos, *Giorgio de Chirico e le mythe grec*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, 1st October-26th November 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, 12-19th January 1997; Sao Paulo, Brazil – Museo Brasileiro da Escultura, *Giorgio de Chirico. Pinturas e esculturas*, catalogue edited by A. Bonito Oliva, 16th March-28th April 1998; Colonnella, *Giorgio de Chirico. Il mito, le armi e l'eroe*, catalogue edited by D. Guzzi, 18th July-30th August 1998; Taranto, *De Chirico. La Metafisica del Mediterraneo*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, 7th December 1998-28th January 1999, English version of catalogue, *De Chirico and the Mediterranean*, 1998; Lubiana, *Giorgio de Chirico*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, 20th April-18th June 1999; Buenos Aires – Borges Cultural Centre, *De Chirico. Metafisica del tiempo/Metafisica del tempo*, catalogue edited by J. de Sanna, 4th April-12th June 2000; Milano – Spazio Oberdan, *Giorgio de Chirico. La Metafisica del Mediterraneo*, catalogue edited by J.

de Sanna, 23rd November 2000-11th February 2001; Charleroi – Palais des Beaux Arts, *Giorgio de Chirico. Les dix dernières années. 1968-1978*, and *L'Apocalypse*, catalogues edited by L. Busine, 4th February-13th May 2001; Brussels – European Parliament, *Giorgio de Chirico "Pictor Optimus"*, catalogue edited by C. Strinati, 12th-20th September 2002, Potenza – Pinacoteca Provinciale, *Giorgio de Chirico dalla Metafisica alla "Metafisica" opere 1909-1973*, catalogue edited by V. Sgarbi, 10th October 2002-9th January 2003; Chieti – Museo Archeologico Nazionale d'Abruzzo, *Giorgio de Chirico. Cavaliere dell'immaginazione errante nell'immaginario*, catalogue edited by D. Guzzi, 28th June-28th September 2003; Cremona – Palazzo Trecchi, *Il grande Metafisico. Giorgio de Chirico scultore*, catalogue edited by F. Ragazzi, 13th March-2nd May 2004; Rome – San Francesco d'Assisi a Ripa Grande church, *La Passione secondo de Chirico*, catalogue edited by A. Bonito Oliva, 21st November 2004-15th January 2005.

2) Venice, *De Chirico nel centenario della nascita*, catalogue edited by M. Calvesi, 1st October 1988-15th January 1989; Tokyo-Kagawa-Osaka, *Giorgio de Chirico 1888-1978, 1989-1990*; Seville-Ischia-Catania-Palermo, *De Chirico. Don Chisciotte della Mancina. Dipinti, bozzetti ed illustrazioni*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, 1992-1993; Rome – Palazzo degli Esposizioni, *Giorgio de Chirico. Pictor Optimus*, catalogue edited by F. Benzi, 16th December 1992-8th February 1993; Genoa – Palazzo Ducale, *Giorgio de Chirico. Pictor Optimus. Pittura disegno teatro*, catalogue edited by M. Ursino, 13th March-30th May 1993; New York-Milan, *Betraying the Muse. De Chirico and the Surrealists*, catalogue edited by P. Baldacci, 21st^l April-28th May 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, 19th July-14th September 1997; Zurich-Munich-Berlin, *Arnold Böcklin – Giorgio de Chirico – Max Ernst. Eine Reise ins Ungewisse*, 1997-1998; Vicenza, *Giorgio de Chirico. Metafisica dei Bagni misteriosi*, catalogue edited by M. Fagiolo dell'Arco, 6th June-13th September 1998; Verona – Museo di Castelvecchio, *De Chirico. Gli anni Trenta*, catalogue edited by M. Fagiolo dell'Arco, 13th December 1998-28th February 1999; Brussels – European Parliament, *Giorgio de Chirico "Pictor Optimus"*, catalogue edited by C. Strinati, 12-20th September 2002; Philadelphia-London, *Giorgio de Chirico and the Myth of Ariadne*, catalogue edited by M. Taylor, November 2002-April 2003; Palermo – Palazzo Ziino, *Giorgio de Chirico, miti, enigmi*,

inquietudini, catalogue edited by M. Calvesi, 25th October-6th January 2003; Cagliari-Palermo-Ascoli Piceno, *Da Tiziano a de Chirico. La ricerca dell'identità*, catalogue edited by V. Sgarbi, June 2003-July 2004; Mons, Belgium – Musée des Beaux-Arts, *Les Années '50 à Rome. Art, Chronique et Culture, du Néo-réalisme à la dolce vita*, catalogue edited by C. Terenzi for Festival Europalia 2003, 12th October 2003-1st February 2004; Rome (the Pantheon) - Brussels (European Parliament), *La Madonna nell'Arte Contemporanea. Omaggio al XXV di Pontificato di S.S. Giovanni Paolo II*, curated by Monsignor R. Giuliano, L. Zichichi and G. Porcella, organised by the Vicariato di Roma, October-November 2003; Stockholm – Prins Eugens Waldemarsudde, *Ariadne – The Sleeping Nymph*, catalogue edited by H. H. Brummer, 11th October 2003-8th February 2004; New York – Galleria Sperone Westwater, *A Triple Alliance. Giorgio de Chirico, Francis Picabia, Andy Warhol*, catalogue edited by G.E. Sperone, 9th January-21st February 2004; Genoa – Loggia dei Mercanti, *Biomedicina e salute. Itinerari di conoscenza nell'ateneo genovese*, catalogue edited by F. Benfenati and F. Ragazzi, 15th October-3rd November 2004; Palermo – Loggia San Bartolomeo, *La Madonna nell'arte contemporanea*, catalogue curated by Monsignor R. Giuliano and L. Zichichi, 12th November-12th December 2004.

On 15-16th October 1999, the conference “*Nulla sine tragedia gloria – L'opera di Giorgio de Chirico attraverso la storiografia contemporanea*” was held at the IRI auditorium in Rome. It was curated by IRI Central Management of General Affairs and External Relations and fully-supported by the Foundation. Documents from this conference were later published by Shakespeare and Company II in 2002.

The Foundation has edited the publication of three important works by the artist: the re-publication of *Memorie della mia vita* with a preface by Prof. Carlo Bo (ed. Tascabili Bompiani, Milan, 2002), the “metaphysical” novel *Ebdòmero* (ed. Abscondita, Milan, 2003) and the newly published *Il Signor Dudron* (ed. Le Lettere, Florence, 1998) – artistic testimony by Giorgio de Chirico and published as an unabridged version for the first time; a French translation of *Il Signor Dudron* (ed. La Différence, Paris, 2003); a German translation of *Il Signor Dudron* (ed. Verlag Gachnang & Springer AG, Bern, 2000), a reprint of *Il piccolo trattato di tecnica pittorica* (edited by Jole de Sanna, ed. Libri Scheiwiller, Milan, 2001); a French translation of *Il piccolo trattato di tecnica pittorica* (Somogy Editions d'Art, Paris, 2001); a reprint of *Commedia dell'arte* by Giorgio de Chirico and

Isabella Far (edited by Jole de Sanna, ed. *Abscondita*, Milan, 2002); and the Spanish translation of *Memorie della mia vita* (ed. Editorial Sintesis, Madrid, 2004). In addition, it has continued to archive authentic works by the artist, and has awarded about fifteen scholarships and fellowships.

On 16th October 2003, the Foundation presented the first edition of its publication *Metafisica – Quaderni della Fondazione Giorgio e Isa de Chirico* (n. 1-2, December 2002) at the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Rome. Amongst those who participated were Prof. Giuseppe Basile, Prof. Maurizio Calvesi, Prof. Pietro Rescigno, Prof. Giorgio Salvini, Prof. Claudio Strinati and the Accademia dei Lincei's President, Prof. Giovanni Conso.

In December 2004, the Foundation published the book *Giorgio de Chirico. Disegno* (Mondadori Electa, Milan). Curated by the late Jole de Sanna, it covers the complete catalogue of drawings and watercolours belonging to the Foundation. Bequeathed by Giorgio de Chirico's widow, the collection has been added to with the acquisition of other drawings. The Foundation plans to publish another two volumes concerning the pictorial works and sculptures of its collection, which were also inherited from de Chirico's widow.

The Foundation's internet site is www.fondazionedechirico.it. It contains detailed information regarding the Foundation's various activities, numerous images of the *de Chirico House-museum*, as well as a selection of works exhibited there.

Translated by Victoria Noel-Johnson