

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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The collection comprises of all of Giorgio de Chirico's poetry and poems in prose dating from 1911 to the 1970s. The artist's complete poems written in the French and Italian numbering 1-108 were published for the first time in "Metafisica. Quaderni della Fondazione Giorgio e Isa de Chirico" in 2008 (n. 7/8, pp. 424-500), edited by Alessia Abadyem. These included 50 previously unpublished poems and draft versions. De Chirico's lyrical poetry and poems in prose written in French number 82, whilst the Italian poems are 26 and include a number of translations of poems from French to Italian carried out by the artist later in life. The remaining French poems were translated in Italian by Valerio Magrelli and published in "Metafisica" n. 9/10 (2011).

De Chirico's complete collection of poems appears in English translation here for the first time thanks to the generous and skilful contribution of Willard Bohn for the French translations and Stefania Heim for the Italian poems. The Foundation is sincerely grateful for this significant accomplishment that allows the greater international public access to Giorgio de Chirico's poetic thought and visions, and represents an important opportunity for further study and research on the Great Metaphysician's oeuvre in all its multifaceted forms. Both authors have further enriched the presentation of artist's collection of poems with analytical essays regarding the poetry and the translation process with considerations and thoughts on de Chirico's extraordinary imaginary world. The Foundation would also like to thank Brett Fletcher Lauer of the Poetry Society of America for his attentive contribution regarding the editing and structuring of the collection.

The poems have been ordered in four chronological sections. The first section (nn. 1-16) comprises of poems in French that form part of de Chirico's Parisian theoretical writings known as the Éluard-Picasso and Jean Paulhan Manuscripts (1911-1915). The second group (n. 17-27) includes poetry and poems in prose written in Italian during that artist's stay in Ferrara during the First World War, the majority of which were published at the time in Italian periodicals. The third section (n. 28-80) comprises of a collection of poems in French datable to de Chirico's second period in Paris from 1925 to 1930, whilst a fourth, smaller section (n. 81-90) includes later poems dating from the 1930s to the 1970s.

The publication of de Chirico's *Complete Poems* in the original language in 2008 included draft versions of a number of poems faithfully transcribed from the manuscripts including words and phrases that had been crossed out by the author (indication of which were provided). These extra versions and drafts have not been included in the present translation, which comprises of 90 poems. The *Complete Poems* (2008) also included four poems by Arthur Schopenhauer that de Chirico had translated from German to French during his first Parisian period in honour of the philosopher: *Sonnet*, *Le vase de fleurs*, *À Kant* and *À la Madone de la Chapelle Sixtine*. De Chirico entitled the poems *Vers inédits d'Arthur Schopenhauer* and kept them in a copy of *Parerga et Paralipomena. Essai sur les apparitions et opuscules diverses*.

The artist dedicated himself to his compositions throughout his life, redrafting them several times and producing different versions of poems that had already been published in French or, in some cases, had remained unpublished. In the 1970s, he translated a number of his early French poems and recited them in Italian in the

documentary, *Le poesie inedite di Giorgio de Chirico* [Unpublished poetry by Giorgio de Chirico], filmed at his apartment-studio in Piazza di Spagna, Rome, and transmitted on his 88th birthday on 10 July 1976.

The poems in sections I and III were translated from the French by Willard Bohn, except for *Vale Lutetia* (n. 28), which was translated from the Italian by Stefania Heim. The poems in section II were translated from the Italian by Stefania Heim, except *Epode* (n. 22), which was translated from the French by Willard Bohn. In section IV, *Sadness* (n. 86) and “*So as not to think about so much amorality...*” (n. 90), were translated by Stefania Heim, whilst I translated *Painting* (n. 87). The remaining poems in this section were translated from the French by Willard Bohn.

General information for each poem are indicated in the footnotes, whilst a more detailed bibliographical note is included at the end.

The poems in the present English translation are numbered in chronological sequence. This numbering differs from the original publication of the French and Italian poems in 2008; the original number of individual poems is specified in footnote as: (2008 n. 1, 2, 3 etc.). This information is useful for those who wish to consult the original language version, available in pdf form on the Foundation’s website: www.fondazionedechirico.org (“*Metafisica. Quaderni della Fondazione Giorgio e Isa de Chirico*” n. 7/8, 2008, pp. 424-500.)

This unique, first-ever English presentation of Giorgio de Chirico’s Poetry is further enriched with a tribute to the artist by Gabriele Tinti, *The Nostalgia of the Poet – An Homage to Giorgio de Chirico* that appears at the end of the collection.