

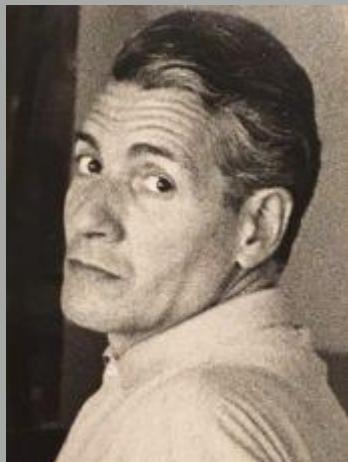
ARCHIVIO LUIGI PERICLE PRESENTS



LUIGI PERICLE (1916-2001) _ BEYOND THE VISIBLE
VENICE – FONDAZIONE QUERINI STAMPALIA

Open to the public: 11 May-24 November 2019

Press preview: 8-10 May – Vernissage: 10 May at 6pm



Archivio Luigi Pericle is honored to present the first anthological exhibition ever held in Italy of Italian-Swiss painter Luigi Pericle (Basel 1916-Ascona 2001).

Luigi Pericle (1916-2001) _Beyond the visible (11 May-24 November 2019) will be hosted in Venice at the Area Scarpa of the [Fondazione Querini Stampalia](#).

The exhibition is **curated by Chiara Gatti**, an expert in 20th century avant-gardes, with the collaboration of **Marco Pasi**, from the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), **Michele Tavola**, from the Galleries of Venice Academy, and **Luca Bochicchio**, Jorn Home Museum of Albisola, AdAC University of Genoa. The exhibition coordination is entrusted to the Archivio Luigi Pericle non-profit association in Ascona, Switzerland.

An exhibit of 50 works and numerous selected documents will develop along an itinerary aimed at enhancing this artist on the international scale and featuring never-before-displayed works by a master of the Twentieth century painting after decades of oblivion, finally returning him to the history of art as a leading, solitary figure committed to aesthetic explorations in postwar period.

Pericle was a multifaceted artist with manifold interests; he escaped any classification and confirmed to be a professional painter as well as a talented cartoonist. In 1951, he created *Max the Marmot*, protagonist of the homonymous comic strips with no texts, which soon became a famous character in Europe and farther afield, in the US and Japan. With his work as an illustrator, Pericle gained international fame, and his comics were released by New York publisher Macmillan in popular newspapers such as *The Washington Post*, *The Herald Tribune*, or the magazine *Punch*".

As a painter, an illustrator, and all-around scholar, Luigi Pericle, was influenced by theosophy and esoteric doctrines, and took part in the cultural debate engendered over the past century by these trends. The acclaimed museologist Hans Hess, curator of the York Art Gallery, who in 1965 organized a traveling exhibition of the artist in several British museums (55 paintings in six English cities), affirmed: "*Pericle is concerned with a state of affairs beyond the visible!*". It was a season of international success, marked by acquaintances with scholars and collectors of the caliber of Peter G. Staechelin and the actress Brigitte Helm (the icon of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*) and the leading art gallery Arthur Tooth & Sons Gallery in London, which curated two solo shows and other collective exhibitions including works by Pablo Picasso, Karel Appel, Antoni Tàpies, Jean Dubuffet, Asgern Jorn, and Frank Stella.

In January 1965, Sir Herbert Read – art critic and co-founder of the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, as well as art consultant for Peggy Guggenheim – paid a visit to Pericle's studio in Ascona and was impressed by his work. According to Sir Read, Pericle aimed at the "pursuit of an Absolute Beauty" through abstract expression, the pure and metaphysical form, capable of giving back and communicating the "deepest essence" of things and their spiritual condition thanks to the harmony of lines and color. Sir Read also curated a solo show of Pericle in 1965 held in London and wrote the preface to the catalogue.

At the end of 1965, Pericle suddenly and firmly decided to give up his career to dedicate himself solely to his pictorial art and his esoteric studies, and retired to private life. After his death, his vicissitudes remained buried for fifteen years inside a deserted house, swallowed by bushes.

The **Casa San Tomaso** revealed an immense heritage of paintings and India ink drawings, besides hundreds of unpublished documents, including essays, texts, letters, sketches, astral paintings, horoscopes and instructions, ufology essays, notebooks rich with quotes and Japanese ideograms, arcane symbols and homeopathic recipes. A summa of the universal thought catalogued by Pericle with monastic rigor and that remained crystallized intact until today.

A chapter of art history is finally returned to the attention of critics and the wider public. After emerging from oblivion, the vicissitudes of Luigi Pericle are now the focus of an attentive recovery by critics and philologists. The wide scope project of study, restoration, conservation and enhancement of his artistic and documentary heritage is entrusted to a dedicated non-profit association (Archivio Luigi Pericle), which coordinates the work of a group of curators specializing in the various disciplines taken on by Pericle.

The Venice exhibition offers a snapshot of the various instances of Luigi Pericle's aesthetic exploration through some fifty significant works and a selection of documents testifying to his multifaced interests. The exhibition will be set up over an area of 257 sq.m.; works will be displayed in chronological order along the perimeter of the *Area Scarpa*, on the ground floor of the *Fondazione Querini Stampalia*. This anthological exhibit digs into the deepest folds of Luigi Pericle's expressive investigation, into his reflection around the language of signs and painting. His intellectual soul, his eclectic studies, his mystical vocation, all represent extraordinary sources of inspiration for a collective imaginary nourishing upon cultural references. The new, ongoing studies on the work of Pericles aim to demonstrate how painting and drawing were the result for him, the manifestation in visible forms of an interior drive.

“There is no time for spirituality in art. It escapes human transience; it is never old and never new. It is, because it is essential; or rather, it is the essential way to express Truth. The essential is not what comes from the artist, but through the artist”.

Luigi Pericle

The exhibition will be held at:

Fondazione Querini Stampalia Onlus

Santa Maria Formosa – Castello 5252, 30122 Venice – www.querinistampalia.org

Exhibition curators:

Chiara Gatti, art historian and critic specializing in modern and contemporary art. For eighteen years, she has written for the cultural section of the Italian daily newspaper *La Repubblica*.

With the collaboration of:

Marco Pasi, University of Amsterdam (UvA) and European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)

Michele Tavola, *Gallerie dell'Accademia di Venezia* (Galleries of Venice Academy)

Luca Bochicchio, Jorn Home Museum of Albisola, AdAC University of Genoa

Coordination:

Archivio Luigi Pericle, Ascona, Switzerland

With the patronage of:

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Fondazione Eranos – Ascona

Town of Monterubbiano – Monterubbiano (FM) – Italy

Links:

To visit Luigi Pericle's website click here: [LUIGI PERICLE](#)

To view Luigi Pericle's Dossier click on the cover beneath:

For further information and press images:

Archivio Luigi Pericle – associazione non-profit

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