



PRESS RELEASE

IGOR MITORAJ

Archeological and Landscape Park
of the
Temples Valley,
Agrigento
April - November 2011

Friday April 15, 2011 at 7:00 pm

Sebastiano Missineo, Regional Assessor of Cultural Assets and Sicilian Identity, Gesualdo Campo, General manager of Cultural Assets and Sicilian Identity. Giuseppe Castellana, Director of the Archeological and Landscape Park of the Temples Valley, Emmanuele Francesco Maria Emanuele, President of the Rome Mediterranean Foundation, Marco Zambuto, Mayor of Agrigento, together will inaugurate **IGOR MITORAJ** exhibition. It will be held inside the Archeological Park of the Temples Valley.

The exhibition, organized by Il Cigno GG Editions and the Contini Gallery of Art in Venice (with the participation of the Archeological Park and Places of Arcadia), has been realized thanks to the support of the Roma Mediterraneo Foundation and the sponsorship of Il Giornale (Sicilian daily news), Telesia, and the Reale Mutua Insurance Company.

The idea of this exhibition originated with Lorenzo Zichichi (Il Cigno GG Editions) and Rosalia Camerata Scovazzo, following an Igor Mitoraj exhibition in Palermo in 2007, that lead them to stimulate in the artist an interest in the planning of a pathway with his sculptures around the picturesque archeological and landscape area of Agrigento. A first in its genre, the exhibition is

one of the most important held by the artist and also for the longest period with a duration of 8 months.

L'esposizione è la prima nel suo genere, la più importante di sempre tra le mostre dell'artista e anche la più lunga nel tempo (dura infatti 8 mesi).

The works exhibited represent sculptures from 1980 to today.

"... In Agrigento, the Valley of the Temples, once again the ancient remains of classical civilization and the gigantic sculptures of Igor Mitoraj will meet, in an installation of powerful aesthetic and emotional impact where the seductive dialogue between past and present finds new accents of anxiety and alienation. A journey along holy grounds, which affects the entire templa - areas measured, oriented and consecrated to the gods – in front of modern devotional offerings arise the sculptures of Mitoraj. Travertine and bronze stand against the stones of the collapsed temple. The silent dialogue between the "fragmented" Mitoraj sculptures and temples of ancient Akragas - Agrigentum in "fragments" turns the silence of this place into a page of timeless story that every visitor is invited to write down with their own emotions and experiences. [...] It seems incredible, but this surreal atmosphere that permeates the sculptures of Mitoraj disappears whenever his works are placed in real life context, whether ancient or modern, provided that they are able to interact with the emptiness and fullness of his sculptures .

This effectively makes the new works of art no longer finite in themselves, but contemporary installations that offer unexpected emotions that project us into a more distant past or into a more futuristic future. This is the greatness of Mitoraj, an artist who seeks monumentality and excessive oversize in his figures that dialogue with modern architecture, which occurred at the Defence of Paris, or confronting the old, as in numerous exhibitions held in Syracuse, Florence and Rome ... "(Francesco Buranelli, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church on Igor Mitoraj in the Valley of the Temples)

One intent of this event is to increase public interest for Sicily and incentivize visits to the Archeological Park (according to data collected by the Park Direction), which had already seen an increase of 15% thanks to an analogous initiative in 2010 (an exhibition with fifty works between sculptures and painting titled *Contemporary Art for the Temple of Zeus*).

Archeological and Landscape Park of the Temples Valley in Argrigento, Sicily

Tel. 0922 27125

Entrance fee: € 11

Opening hours: 8:30 am – 7:00 pm daily (during the summer months the hours might be subject to change)

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