

## CARLA TOLOMEO

Biography, Bibliography, Exhibitions**Biography**

Carla Tolomeo was born in Pinerolo, near Turin, Italy, but grew up and studied in Rome. When she was still a child, she was encouraged to paint by Giorgio de Chirico and later on by Renato Guttuso, Franco Gentilini and Ugo Attardi. In 1971, she exhibited her works, inspired by Japanese paintings, in Lugano. The art historian and critic Giovanni Testori introduced her to the Galleria Cavour in Milan, that organized her solo exhibition *Le storie di Erodiade*.

After moving to Milan, Carla Tolomeo began a new active artistic season, putting to fruition her studies on the works of the Old Masters, Vittore Carpaccio, Albrecht Dürer and Leonardo. Between 1976 and 1980, Carla Tolomeo worked in various media, including oil, pencil, etching and engraving, and exhibited in various cities across Europe: Vienna, Geneva, Zurich, Athens. She created a series of drawings and etchings dedicated to Giacomo Casanova, which were accompanied by the words of Leonardo Sciascia.

After an experience in Paraguay, Carla Tolomeo's work would once again find its center in Milan. Besides producing her creative works, she taught engraving at the Fine Arts Academies of Brera and Venice. In 1995, she was invited to Mantova to exhibit her series of *Variazioni*, based on the works by Mantegna. In 1997 Carla's works were on show at the Leichester's Galleries in London with the exhibition *Tribute to Leonardo* and in 1999 her works were exhibited at the Contemporary Art Museum in Rijeka and then in Zagabria at the Italian Culture Institute.

In 1997, Carla Tolomeo exhibited for the first time her *Sedie*, the sculptured chairs that mark a turning point in her artistic production, astonishing collectors worldwide with her artistic amusement. As she herself wrote in the presentation of her first catalogue dedicated to the Chairs-Sculptures, her philosophy is the mutation/transformation of any object into an artistic object,

beginning with the simplest household item: a chair. Strong on her life's experiences, her studies and the memory of her old teacher, Giorgio de Chirico, Carla Tolomeo is capable of transforming the chair into something magic: a totem, a jerk of fishes, a gigantic flower. Her Chairs-Sculptures become something magical that brings back memories of childhood, while keeping the touch of mischief of someone who has lived their life intensely.

## **Selected bibliography**

### **1997**

Gabriele Magnani, *AD*

*Arte*

Noa Arber, *TU*

### **1998**

*New York Times*, New York

*AD America*

### **1999**

Ervin Dubrovic, Tonko Maroevic, *Carla Tolomeo : zavodjenje = seduzioni*, Rijeka Contemporary Art Museum and Zagreb Italian Cultural Institute , Rijeka, Croatia

### **2000**

*La Sedia*, ed. Mauro Baroni, Viareggio, Italy

Stash Luczkiw, *Herald Tribune*, London, United Kingdom

Elisabetta Muritti, *Elle*

Luda Krishtaleva, *Salon*, Moscow, Russia

Kam Fu Lee, *Zip Magazine*, Hong Kong, Cina

Simone Weil, Grado Merlo, introduction by, *La Chanson de la Croisade albigeoise*, ed. Marietti, Turin, Italy

### **2003**

Massimo Barracca, *Chairs*, Miami, Florida

Exhibition catalogue, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

### **2004**

Jurij Fleishmann, *Sedie*, Puskin Museum, Moscow, Russia

Claudia Sugliano, *Manual de Zoologia Fantastica* di Borges, ed. Gribaudo, Milan, Italy

Giancarlo Vigorelli, Luciano Caprile, Milena Milani, Claudia Sugliano, Grigore Arbore Popescu, *Mai sedersi sugli Allori*, ed. Baroni, Viareggio, Italy

## 2006

George Astalos, Pierre Restany, Roberto Tassi, Raffaele Carrieri, *Carla Tolomeo: opere 2000-2006*, Tornabuoni Arte, Florence, Italy

Dante Isella, Florida Benedettini, Bruna Niccoli, *I Barocchi*, Fondazione Cerratelli, Pugnano, ed. Idea Books, Milan, Italy

## 2007

Vittorio Sgarbi, George Astalos, *Mai Sedersi Sugli Allori*, Villa Reale di Milano, Milan, Italy

## 2009

Luciano Caprile, Ottavio Missoni, Aurelio Amendola, Marta Marzotto, *Antropomorfica*, Galleria Degli Antichi, Sabbioneta, Italy

Matteo Collura, *Catalogo Fiera di Vicenza*, ed. Polistampa, Florence, Italy

## 2010 - 2011

*Catalogo*, Sicis Next Art, Sicis, Milan, Italy

## 2012

Gillo Dorfles, *Oggi il Kitsch*, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy

Aurelio Amendola, Fondazione Marconi, Milano, Italia

## 2013

Pasquale Guadagnolo, Tatiana Osipova, *I Barocchi*, Fondazione Cerratelli, Pugnano, ed. Idea Books, Milan, Italy

Luciano Caprile, Simona Poggi, *Rhinos, pelicans and tortoises*, Bottega San Giorgio, Albisola, Italy

*Exhibition catalogue*, Tatiana Nikitina, Art Hoding, St. Petersburg, Russia

## 2014

Annalisa Zanni, *The soft house - tra arte e design*, Museo Poldi Pezzoli, Milan, Italy

Sabino Mario Frassà, Palazzo Isimbardi, Milan, Italy

Natalia Metelitsa, Tatiana Nikitina, *Booklet*, Sheremetov palace Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia

Daniele Crippa, *Carla Tolomeo. Dark side*, exhibition catalogue, Museo del Parco di Portofino, Italy

Giovanni Sartori, *Grandi artisti delle ceramiche San Giorgio*, Sabbioneta Contemporanea,  
Sabbioneta, Italy

**2015**

Victor Fernandez, *Exhibition Catalogue*, Museo Benito Quinquela Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Carla Tolomeo: Ti piacerebbe sedere su un'opera d'arte?*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Cortina  
d'Ampezzo- Venice, Italy

**2017**

Tatiana Nikitina, Art Holding (edited by), with Galleria d'Arte Contini, *The Pleasure Garden of Carla  
Tolomeo*, ed. NP-Print, St. Petersburg, Russia

**2018**

*Carla Tolomeo: L'arte di sedersi*, AimoRoom Concept with Galleria d'Arte Contini, Lugano,  
Switzerland

**Exhibitions****2018**

*L'arte di sedersi*, Aimo Room Concept Store, Lugano, Switzerland

*Carta da musica*, Sala Mahler, Milan, Italy

Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Salta, Argentina, thanks to Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

*Disegni per Eufrosina*, Fondazione Leonardo Sciascia, Recalmuto, Agrigento, Italy

ArteFiera, Bologna, Italy

**2017**

*Tavolozze d'autore*, Centro culturale Altinate San Gaetano, Padova, Italy

Festival Puccini – Scenografie per Turandot, Fondazione Pucciniana, Torre del Lago, Viareggio, Italy

MiArt, Milan, Italy

ArteFiera, Bologna, Italy

*Il giardino delle Delizie di Carla Tolomeo*, Museo del Teatro e della Musica, St. Petersburg, Russia  
with Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

**2016**

Bel Air Fine Arts, Venice, Italy in collaboration with Galleria d'Arte Contini

**2015**

*Carla Tolomeo: ti piacerebbe sedere su un'opera d'arte?*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Cortina d'Ampezzo - Venice, Italy

**2014**

*Carla Tolomeo. Dark side*, Museo del Parco, Portofino, Genoa, Italy

**2013**

*Maison Objet*, Paris, France

Galleria Tornabuoni Arte, Forte dei Marmi, Lucca, Italy

Miart, Milan, Italy

**2012**

Lineapiù, Florence, Italy

Mostra sul design contemporaneo, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy

**2011**

*VistAmare*, Galleria Studio di Anacapri, Naples, Italy

*Carla Tolomeo - Bestiario fantastico*, Galleria Arte in Movimento, Forte dei Marmi, Lucca, Italy

**2010**

Collaborazione con Sicis, Ravenna, Italy

**2009**

*Carla Tolomeo. Un trono per Vespasiano Gonzaga, Duca di Sabbioneta*, Palazzo Ducale di Sabbioneta, Italy

Galleria degli antichi, Sabbioneta, Italy

*Carla Tolomeo. Mai sedersi sugli allori*, C Dream, Costa crociere Lounge&Bar, Genoa, Italy

**2008**

Galleria Tornabuoni Arte, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

**2007**

*Carla Tolomeo. Mai sedersi sugli allori*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Milano, Villa Reale, Milan, Italy

*Unreal Flower*, Art box, Milan, Italy

**2006**

*I Barocchi*, Fondazione Cerratelli, Pugnano, Italy

**2005**

Puskin Museum, Moscow, Russia

**2003**

*Chairs*, Senzatempo, Miami, Florida, con Massimo Baracca

**2002**

Galleria d'Arte Contini, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

*Chairs e disegni*, Spazio Cappellini, Milan, Italy

MiArt, Milan, Italy, with Galleria d'Arte Contini

*Di sedia in sedia*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

**2001**

*Spazio I.D. Design*, Tel Aviv, Israel

ArteFiera, Bologna, Italy

Studio Guastalla, Milan, Italy

MiArt, Milan, Italy

Galleria Senzatempo, Miami Beach, Los Angeles and New York

Galleria Farsetti, Prato, Italy

**1999-2000**

Progetto Metrop-arte

Studio G, Galleria Guastalla, Milan, Italy

ArteFiera, Bologna, Italy

MiArt, Milan, Italy

Studio G, Forte dei Marmi, Lucca, Italy

Evento di Natale per Hermès, Parigi, Francia

Rose – Chairs, display windows for Blumarines boutiques, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Seoul, Vienna

Capolavori del '900, Spazio Trussardi, Milan, Italy

Palazzo Pitti, Florence, Italy

**1998-1999**

Museo di arte Contemporanea, Rijeka, Croazia

Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Zagreb, Croatia

**1997**

The Leicester Galleries, London, United Kingdom

Galleria Ulrich, Zagreb, Croatia

Arcani di Casanova, Prague, Czech Republic

Altarpiece of Don Orione, Church of San Michele, Tortona, Alessandria, Italy

**1996**

Galleria Borgonuovo, Milan, Italy

L'albero della giustizia, Budapest and Balaton Fured, Hungary

Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Madrid, Salamanca and Seville, Spain

**1995**

Casa del Mantegna, Mantova, Italy

**1994**

Museo di Campione, Como, Italy

**1993**

Stanze della Memoria, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy

**1992**

Stazione di Bisceglie (underground line 1), Milan, Italy

**1991**

Palazzo di Giustizia, Milan, Italy

*Protagonisti degli anni '80*, Sciacca, Agrigento, Italy

**1988**

Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy

Opera grafica, Biblioteca Sormani, Milan, Italy

**1986**

Castello, Sirmione, Italy

Cathedral of San Juan Bautista, Paraguay

**1985**

Museo Vela, Luino, Switzerland

**1984**

Pinacoteca d'Arte Contemporanea Palazzo Vittone, Pinerolo, Italy

**1983**

Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy

Galleria del Naviglio, Venice, Italy

**1981**

Palazzo della Regione, Trento, Italy

Galleria Bon à Tirer, Milan, Italy

Galleria Il Triangolo, Cremona, Italy

Galleria Pancheri, Rovereto, Italy

**1980**

Circle des Communautés Européennes, Luxemburg

**1979**

Galleria Wurtle, Vienna, Austria

**1978**

Museo all'aperto, Seregno, Italy

**1977**

Castronno, Varese, Italy

**1972**

Galleria Cavour, Milan, Italy

Galleria Cavour, Verona, Italy

Galleria dei Carabinieri, Varazze, Italy

**1971**

Galleria Lo Spazio, Rome, Italy

*D'apres*, Lugano, Switzerland