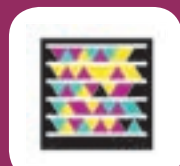


THE HEMODIALYSIS PAVILION

In the park at the rear of the ancient Ospedale del Ceppo and in front of the Church of the Carmine, is the *Hemodialysis Pavilion*, a state-of-the-art structure for dialysis treatments. Seven internationally renowned artists – Daniel Buren, Dani Karavan, Sol LeWitt, Robert Morris, Hidetoshi Nagasawa, Claudio Parmiggiani and Gianni Ruffi – were invited to each create an art installation that would interact with the spaces used by the patients. The content of these works expresses hope and an openness to life and are in harmony with the rooms used for hospital stays. The relationship between art and architecture, between interior and exterior was designed to be porous, without filters or barriers. According to this desire for integration, inside the structure are found a Zen garden, a mosaic floor representing the zodiac and other works of art. In the park surrounding the building – reached by passing under an arch of Corten steel encircled by a climbing wisteria – are two overlapping half-moons that form a bench where one can rest in the shade of trees and the marble gazebo whose table is carved with the words spoken by Rita Levi Montalcini upon receiving a Nobel Prize: *Hope, serenity, courage: winning qualities.*



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TEXT

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PHOTOS

APT - Museo Marino
Marini - Katrin Fox -
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TRANSLATION

Studio Blitz - Pistoia

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Studio Phaedra

ITINERARIES OF ART AND HISTORY

CONTEMPORARY ART, THE "PISTOIA SCHOOL"

www.pistoia.turismo.toscana.it



**AGENZIA
PER IL TURISMO**
ABETONE PISTOIA
MONTAGNA P.SE



Intervento realizzato all'interno delle azioni previste dal progetto interregionale (L.135/2001 art. 5) "Valorizzazione comprensorio sciistico toscano emiliano" cofinanziato da Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri - Dipartimento per lo sviluppo e la competitività del turismo - e dalla Regione Toscana

CONTEMPORARY ART, THE "PISTOIA SCHOOL"

Expressions of contemporary art in Pistoia stem from the relationship that the city has forged with its past. The extraordinary figure of Marino Marini, born in Pistoia in early twentieth century (his artistic research started from the oldest figurative traditions of Tuscany) provides an emblematic example: "I am Mediterranean! The light, the sea make color more necessary for us - unlike northern Europeans, we already have color inside of us at the time we are born, we must recognize it." Marini's work develops through three main themes: the figure of Pomona, horses and riders, and portraits. The Marini Center and Foundation, housed in the impressive medieval Palazzo del Tau, exhibits sculptures, drawings, and watercolors as well

as all the artist's graphic works. One of his famous horse and rider sculptural groups, entitled "Miracle" can be seen in the inner courtyard of the Palazzo Comunale.

The Town Museum has many works by artists who, in the 1920s and 1930s, constituted a veritable "Pistoia school": Alberto Caligiani, Francesco Chiappelli, Renzo Agostini, Pietro Bugiani, Umberto Mariotti, Alfiero Cappellini, and Corrado Zanzotto. These are painters who – along with their precursors Lippi, Nannini and others – were the bearers of an intimate and deliberate art, where the elements of nature are imbued with poetic melancholy.

In the post-war generation are artists like Gualtiero Nativi and Mario Nigro, members of a classical abstractionist

current who, despite having spent most of their artistic careers outside the city, remained forever linked to it. Some of their best works are in the permanent collection of the Palazzo Fabroni Center for Contemporary Visual Arts which serves as a space for exhibitions and a starting point to explore the new frontiers of art.

Also in Palazzo Fabroni's permanent collection is a section dedicated to Pistoian artists, collected under the name of the "Pistoia School" that, beginning in the 1960s, gave birth to one of the most interesting Ital-



ian currents in late 20th-century art. The artists – Roberto Barni, Umberto Buscioni, Gianni Ruffi and Adolfo Natalini – were the catalyst for a study that looked towards an international culture while retaining "an entirely Tuscan objectivity and civility". Installations by these artists are found today in some of Pistoia's squares: Ruffi's *Moon in the Well* interacts with the arcade of the Ospedale del Ceppo on the spot where a well stood in ancient times; whereas in Piazza dell'Ortaggio, next to La Sala, is a bronze group by Barni entitled *Around the Sun* that depicts three blindfolded figure, each walking in a different direction, each carrying a source of light

The house and study of Fernando Melani, the conceptual artist and experimenter in Arte Povera and Minimal Art, is a unique opportunity to visit a veritable artist's house, which the city acquired after his death. The exhibition is set up as if making a real visit to the artist, whose works are piled up throughout living spaces in just the way the artist left them.

Along the Via Montalese, not far from



Pistoia, is a private collection known worldwide as one of the largest collections of environmental art. From the 1970s up to today, the Fattoria di Celle has hosted international artists who, in a wonderfully romantic park, have made irremovable art installations that interact with the environment.

Guests of the collector Giuliano Gori have included artists like Alberto Burri, Robert Morris, Richard Serra, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Anselm Kiefer and many others.