



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DI SAN LUCA

LUIGI ONTANI

SanLuCàstoMalinIcònicoAttoniTònicoEstaEstE'tico

ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DI SAN LUCA
Palazzo Carpegna, piazza dell'Accademia di San Luca 77, Rome

17th May – 22nd September 2017

PRESS RELEASE

The Accademia Nazionale di San Luca is marking the awarding of the **Premio Presidente della Repubblica 2015** to Luigi Ontani with an exhibition at Palazzo Carpegna.

Entitled *SanLuCàstoMalinIcònicoAttoniTònicoEstaEstE'tico*, the exhibition will run from 17th May to 22nd September 2017.

Established in 1950 by the then President of the Republic of Italy, Luigi Einaudi, the prestigious national award is assigned annually to an individual artist working in any of the visual arts and the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca is responsible for indicating the painters, sculptors or architects to be honoured.

To celebrate the awarding of the Premio Presidente della Repubblica 2015 to Luigi Ontani, the Academy has invited the artist to devise an exhibition featuring works from each period of his career to date, ranging from the *tableaux vivants* of the early 1970s to his recent *ErmEstEtiche*, some of which have been created specifically for *SanLuCàstoMalinIcònicoAttoniTònicoEstaEstE'tico* and are exhibited here for the first time.

The rooms of Palazzo Carpegna will host approximately 60 works: Ontani's early works will be on show in the rooms on the ground floor of the building, with the exhibition continuing up along Borromini's helical ramp and culminating on the third floor in the rooms of the Academy's Gallery, the itinerary permitting a rich dialogue with the works in the Academy's historical collections.

In the 'living iconographies' of his celebrated *tableaux vivants*, Ontani himself becomes a simulacrum, taking on the guise of a series of figures from history, mythology, literature and popular culture, including Raphael, Leonardo and St. Luke. The exhibition also features the hand-coloured photographs of journeys and sojourns in the Far East (from 1972 onwards) in which the colours and traditions of the Orient infuse his work. His work of the 1980s is characterized by experiments with other materials including papier-mâché, wood, ceramics and Murano glass, with which Ontani transposes into sculpture the themes of the mask and of the hybridization of gods and idols that he had previously explored in his photographic work. The exhibition continues with examples of his *Anamorpse* (lenticular photographic prints that he began creating in 2000), furniture and 'domestic' objects created in ceramics and glass, and then, in conclusion, the *ErmEstEtiche*, *Canopi* and *BellimBusTi* series in ceramics.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a **bilingual catalogue** (Italian and English) with introductory texts by the President of the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, Gianni Dessì, and the Academy's Secretary General, Francesco Moschini, a critical analysis by **Ester Coen**, a wide-ranging interview with **Hans Ulrich Obrist** and essays by the writers **Aurelio Picco** and **Emanuele Trevi**, along with texts to which Ontani himself has a particular attachment by **Francesca Alinovi**, **Jan Hoet**, **Goffredo Parise** and an unpublished poem by **Valentino Zeichen**.

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INFORMATION

Exhibition: LUIGI ONTANI. *SanLuCàstoMalinIconicoAttoniTònicoEstaEstE'tico*

Press preview: Wednesday 17th May, 11.00am

Inauguration: Wednesday 17th May, 6.00pm

Exhibition dates: 17th May – 22nd September 2017

Venue: Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, piazza dell'Accademia di San Luca 77 – Rome

Information: tel. (+39) 06 679 8850; segreteria@accademiasanluca.it

Opening times: from Monday to Saturday: 10.00am - 7.00pm (last entrance 6.30pm). Closed on Sundays and from 6th to 27th August.

Entrance to the exhibition is free of charge

PHOTOS: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lw19u5wrwtq7t9s/AACZmh-gaG8areOEyhsnElcQa?dl=0>

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