
PRESS RELEASE

MUSEO DEL NOVECENTO
PIAZZA DUOMO 8, MILANO

WHO'S AFRAID OF DRAWING? 20TH CENTURY ITALIAN WORKS ON PAPER

curated by Irina Zucca Alessandrelli

Museo del Novecento

23 November 2018 - 24 February 2019

Opening: 22 November 2018, 6.00 pm

Museo del Novecento presents a major exhibition of 20th-century Italian works of art on paper from the Ramo Collection. With more than one hundred works of art, from Boccioni to Paolini, by way of Savinio, Fontana, Melotti, Rama, Castellani, Mauri, Agnetti, Mondino, Schifano, Pascali, Boetti, Salvo and many others, the extraordinary Milanese private collection is being presented to the public for the first time, while also providing an important resource with the publication of its *catalogue raisonné*.

Who's Afraid of Drawing? The provocative intent of the title ironically calls attention to the lack of culture surrounding drawing, which will be seen in an entirely unexpected light in the exhibition. The selection of the works of art and the innovative approach to their display convey the importance that drawing merits in the history of art and will heighten visitors' appreciation of this art form.

Who's Afraid of Drawing? features a broad selection of works by the most representative Italian artists of the 20th century, and by others still to be rediscovered, from the prestigious Collezione Ramo, one of the major private collections of works on paper of the 20th century, founded a few years ago by the Milanese entrepreneur Pino Rabolini. With almost 600 works of art, starting from the early 1900s the collection tracks the progress of the major protagonists of the historical avant-garde movements, all the way to the early 1990s. The aim of the collection is to bear witness to the great importance of Italian art during the past century, and to promote the culture of drawing as an autonomous value, on the same level as painting and sculpture.

If we let the drawings do the talking, we can identify the thematic groups that are based on what we effectively discover in the works on paper, regardless of existing historical and stylistic categories. That is why the show is divided into four sections in the form of open questions: 'Abstractions?', 'Figurations?', 'Words + Images =?' and 'What about Sculptors?'. The works themselves will answer these questions that spring from the visual association of abstract and figurative forms of different periods, to put them into communication with each other.

The titles of the exhibition's four sections are fairly broad and are followed by question marks because they do not refer to specific movements, but open the way to new explorations, precisely to avoid restricting the individual artist's vision to a single movement.

The public will have the rare occasion to appreciate unpublished works and great masterpieces that offer a new key to understanding the works of artists best known for their

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production on canvas such as Cagnaccio di San Pietro, Tancredi, Gnoli, Burri, or for sculpture such as Wildt, Marini and Consagra. Visitors will also be able to observe the initial or late works, usually less well-known but nonetheless very interesting, of artists such as Rho, Sant'Elia and Munari, or works on paper by artists best known for their *Arte Povera* installations such as Merz, Kounellis, Anselmo and Calzolari.

Following the recent death of the collector, Pino Rabolini, this first large-scale presentation of the Ramo Collection is also a celebration the sensitivity and foresight of the person who had such faith in the force and unique qualities of drawing.

Who's Afraid of Drawing? also features a lively and unexpected contribution by Virgilio Villoresi, who has created a video animation in paper, a sort of dream tribute to the Ramo Collection: *Sogni di Segni* presents drawing in the form of a dream, playing with the works and colours of fourteen of the artists included in the show. In the video, which includes the exceptional presence of its maker, the protagonists are two hands that with paper, brushes and colours of various types literally bring to life some of the drawings of the collection, triggering an effective and vivacious dialogue amongst the various works.

The collection of the Museo del Novecento, a perfect venue for the show, will allow visitors to make direct comparisons with the paintings and sculptures in the permanent collection, the authors of which coincide to a great extent with those of the Ramo Collection.

Together with the exhibition, the Ramo Collection will present *Italian drawing from the 20th century*, curated by Irina Zucca Alessandrelli and published by Silvana Editoriale, which traces a long voyage through the history of Italian drawing based on the works included in the collection.

The exhibition *Who's Afraid of Drawing?* is open to visitors every day with the entrance fee of Museo del Novecento and with free guided visits for families and children, conducted by Ad Artem. Offered by the Ramo Collection and the Belleville school of creative writing, the activities begin with a tour through the works on view in the exhibition and the permanent collection, and continue with educational workshops organised for different age groups (for info and reservations: www.chihapauradeldisegno.it/didattica).

For the occasion, the website www.chihapauradeldisegno.it has been created, along with an Instagram account ([collezioneramo](https://www.instagram.com/collezioneramo)), providing continuing updates on the exhibitions and activities of this prestigious Milanese collection.

ABOUT MUSEO DEL NOVECENTO

Address

Museo del Novecento, piazza Duomo 8, Milano

Main Sponsor

Leonardo

Promoted by

Comune di Milano

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Opening hours

Monday 2.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday 9.30 am - 7.30 pm

Thursday and Saturday 9.30 am - 10.30 pm

Guided visits

Curated by *Ad Artem*

Information and booking 02.6597728

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Press Office

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EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Title

Who's Afraid of Drawing?

Information

info@collezioneramo.com,

Curator

Irina Zucca Alessandrelli

Website

www.collezioneramo.it

www.chihapauradeldisegno.it

Layout and staging

Annaluce Canali, Enrico Camontelli

Instagram

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Press preview

22 novembre 2018, ore 12

Press Office

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Opening

22 novembre 2018, ore 18