



FONDAZIONE COLLEGIO UNIVERSITARIO S. CATERINA DA SIENA
RESIDENZA UNIVERSITARIA BIOMEDICA
VIA L. GIULOTTO 12 PAVIA

Outsider Art

The artistic expression of freedom or distress
Exhibition opening in Pavia on November 24, 2014 at 2.30 p.m.



Art Brut, Raw Art, Outsider Art: all these terms identify a world of symbols, colours and shapes springing from the imagination and hidden depths of unusual artists – artists who are outside the box, unwittingly revolutionary and free.

The University Biomedical Residence of the Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena

which stands out as an innovative force in the historical context of Pavia's finest colleges – providing accommodation for PhD students, interns and Masters' degree students, mainly foreign, at the University of Pavia – is the venue for the inauguration of another important exhibition, this time devoted to the **Outsider Artists of the Haus der Künstler at the Gugging Museum and of the bild.Balance Atelier in Vienna**, whose work will be displayed with other collected works from the Seventies to the present day. Walla, Vondal, Fischer, Wikidal and Katarina Savic are just a few of the artists whose works, belonging to the collection of Fabio and Leo Cei, will be on public display for the first time.

The exhibition, a journey in an exceptional expressive and aesthetic dimension, shows without filters the natural mental factors that are at the root of artistic creation, revealing its original essence.

This type of artistic expression was first classified and gained its first recognition thanks to the efforts of Jean Dubuffet, a famous French painter and sculptor of the first half of the twentieth century, who codified and coined the first definition of this art form which broke free from "asphyxiante culture": Art Brut.

Art Brut "works created from solitude and from pure and authentic creative impulses, in which concerns over competitors, acclaim and social advancement do not get in the way, and which are, for this very reason, more valuable than the works of professionals".

Art Brut, which English historian Roger Cardinal, in 1972, dubbed *Outsider Art*, stems from a creative spirit, an impulse that does not follow set patterns and that disregards techniques and materials, giving rise to a personal style and creating an artistic language of its own, totally outside mainstream culture.

This is not just an exhibition but also an opportunity for deep reflection about boundaries of art, the essence of creativity and the ambiguous and complex relationship between the human being and his work. It is an interdisciplinary event that brings together paintings, objects, music and poetry, and explores the relationship between mental distress and artistic expression.

The whole exhibition experience will be complemented by the music of Simona Concaro, who is affected by autism. The music is transcribed by Pierluigi Politi, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pavia and by Hanna Shybayeva, who will perform it on the piano. The event will also feature the poems of Ike Hasbani, who also has autism. Both these artists live at Cascina Rossago (Ponte Nizza in the province of Pavia), a social centre specifically catering for the existential and expressive needs of young people with autism.



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The inauguration day will begin with an open meeting taking an in-depth look at Outsider Art. This will be held in the “Maria Antonietta Sairani” Auditorium at the University Biomedical Residence.

The participants will be:

Prof. Sigfrido Boffi

President of the Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena

Prof. Elisa Fazzi

Director of the S. Caterina da Siena Biomedical Residence
Professor of Child Neuropsychiatry - University of Brescia

Prof. Maria Pia Sacchi Mussini

Rector of Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena

Prof. Francesco Barale

Professor of Psychiatry - University of Pavia

Prof. Giorgio Bedoni

Psychiatrist, Professor of the Brera Academy - Milano

Prof. Gabriella Bottini

Professor of Physiological Psychology and Neuropsychology - University of Pavia

Prof. Pierluigi Politi

Professor of Psychiatry and head of the Autism Laboratory - University of Pavia

Dr Bianca Tosatti

Director of MAImuseum - Sospiro (CR)

Prof. Ali Akay

Professor of Sociology - Mimar Sinan University of Istanbul

Prof. Johann Feilacher

Psychiatrist, Director of the Gugging Museum - Vienna

Dr John Maizels

Art historian, founder of the international journal Raw Vision Magazine - London

Biomedical University Residence

Fondazione Collegio Universitario S. Caterina da Siena

Via Luigi Giulotto 12, Pavia

Hours

Mondays-Fridays: 9 a.m. - 12 noon, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

For information

Secretary's office: Tel. +39 0382 51 67 62

Dr Eleonora Ferrari

The exhibition will be open from November 24, 2014 until January 31, 2015
(it will be closed from December 23, 2014 to January 6, 2015).

**To mark the occasion, Edizioni Santa Caterina will be publishing a catalogue
of all the exhibited works with the speakers' texts in Italian and English.**

With the contribution of
 **BANCA PATRIMONI**
Sella & C.