

Mimmo Paladino. Biography

- 1948 Born in Paduli (Benevento) on December 18th.
- 1964 He visits the Venice Biennial where Robert Rauschenberg's work in the American Pavilion make a strong impression on him, revealing to him the reality of art.
- 1968 He graduates from the arts secondary school of Benevento. He holds an exhibition presented by Achille Bonito Oliva, at the Portici Gallery (Naples).
- 1969 Enzo Cannaviello's Lo Studio Oggetto in Caserta organizes his solo exhibition.
- 1973 He begins to combine images in mixed technique, creating a complex iconography that takes into account an extraordinary mix of messages, strangely opposed and divergent, yet blended together.
- 1977 He moves to Milan.
- 1978 First trip to New York.
- 1980 He is invited by Achille Bonito Olivo to participate in the *Aperto '80* at the Venice Biennial along with Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Enzo Cucchi and Nicola De Maria. He publishes the book *EN-DE-RE* with Emilio Mazzoli in Modena.
- 1981 He participates in *A New Spirit in Painting* at the London Royal Academy of Art. The Kunstmuseum of Basel and the Kestner-Gesellschaft of Hannover organize a large exhibitions of drawings made from 1976 to 1981. The exhibition moves from the Kestner-Gesellschaft in Hannover to the Mannheimer Kunstverein in Mannheim and the Groninger Museum in Groningen, launching Paladino as an international artist.
- 1982 He participates in *Documenta 7* in Kassel and the Sydney Biennial. He makes his first bronze sculpture, *Giardino Chiuso*. First trip to Brazil, where his father lives.
- 1984 He builds a house and studio in Paduli near Benevento and from this point on divides his time between Paduli and his Milan apartment.
- 1985 The Lenbachhaus in Munich organizes his first retrospective exhibition. He completes *Pietre*, the first of many series of figures in white stone.
- 1988 He has a solo exhibition at the Venice Biennial.
- 1989 He designs a Swatch watch which is produced in a limited edition of 100 pieces. The idea was not to decorate a watch but to design time. "My Swatch is like an amusing *vanitas*, a poetic symbol of time passing, produced industrially."

- 1990 He is called upon by theater director Elio De Capitani to create a set for the opera *La sposa di Messina* based on Friedrich Schiller's tragedy and staged in Gibellina in Sicily as part of the Orestiadi festival. Paladino conceives an ambience-sculpture to be viewed by moonlight, consisting of a Zen garden dominated by a mountain of salt from which the shapes of 30 wooden horses emerge.
- 1991 The royal castle in Prague is renovated for the opening of his large exhibition. Paladino shows a cycle of seven new canvases inspired by the history of Prague, nine bronze torsos and works on paper. A sculpture of a fallen horse is displayed in a nearby square. He completes a new cycle of twelve drawings on wood, *Il Respiro della bellezza*.
- 1992 He completes the permanent installation *Hortus Conclusus* in the cloister of San Domenico in Benevento. "I liked the idea of a *Hortus Conclusus* as a place in which to look at and contemplate works of art far from the constrictions of the art gallery." The Civic Art Gallery of Trento dedicates an exhibition to his *Works on paper*. A large exhibition of works completed between 1970 and 1992 is organized in five Brazilian museums: the Museo de Arte de Sao Paulo, the Museo da Gravura in Curitiba, the Museo de Arte Moderna in Belo Horizonte, the Museo de Arte Moderna of Brasilia and the Museo de Arte Moderna in Rio de Janeiro.
- 1993 He holds a large solo exhibition at the Forte Belvedere in Florence.
- 1994 He becomes the first contemporary Italian artist to hold an exhibition in China, at the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Peking. He works in Bologna. He publishes *Ulysses*, 21 etched plates based on the James Joyce novel.
- 1995 Naples dedicates a large exhibition to him at the Stables of the Royal Palace, at Villa Pignatelli Cortes and in Piazza Plebiscito. The *Montagna di Sale* erected by Paladino in Piazza del Plebiscito is viewed as a provocation for the beginning of the new year.
- 1998 He publishes *Film*, a collection of 32 drawings.
- 1999 A large exhibition at the South London Gallery includes *Testimoni*, a group of 20 statues in white stone, and *Zenith*, a series of works in mixed technique on aluminum. For the South London Gallery Projects, Paladino creates the installation *I Dormienti* in Undercroft of the Roundhouse at Chalk Farm, which is accompanied by music written by Brian Eno. The Royal Academy of London bestows upon him the title of Honorary Member.
- 2000 One of his images is used for the set of *Oedipus Rex* at the Teatro Argentina in Rome, directed by Mario Martone.
- 2001 He illustrates the Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, published in two volumes by Le Lettere publishers in Florence. Publication of the catalogue *Opera Grafica 1974-2001*, edited by Enzo Di Martino.
- 2002-2003 The Luigi Pecci Contemporary Art Center of Prato holds the most complete retrospective dedicated to Paladino by an Italian museum, curated by Bruno Corà.
- 2003 Along with Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Enzo Cucchi and Nicola de Maria, he represents the *Transavanguardia 1979-1985* at the Castello di Rivoli Contemporary Art Museum.

- 2004 In addition to setting up an exhibition in Rome (*XXIV Andamenti*) with artist Sol Lewitt and in Naples (*Quadri milanesi*), he produces a stage set (*Oedipus at Colono*) and wins the UBU prize for best theatrical set. He created the doors for the Renzo Piano-designed Church of Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo.
- 2005 The Museum of Art of the City of Ravenna organizes a large exhibition *Mimmo Paladino in scena*, bringing together all his theatrical sets. In June, for the Biennale, he presented an exhibition of large sculptures curated by Enzo Di Martino at the Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna Ca' Pesaro in Venice. At Capodimonte Museum in Naples he set up the large exhibition dedicated to Cervantes' Don Quixote, with paintings, sculptures, drawings and a film.
- 2006 The project continued into the following year with the illustration of a new edition of *Don Quixote* and the realization of an artist's book, with poems by Giuseppe Conte, also inspired by the mythical "errant knight" (Editalia). He created the doors for the Church of San Giovanni Battista in Lecce (designed by Franco Purini), completed an intervention in piazza dei Conti Guidi, *Piazza per Leonardo*, in Vinci. He showed in the Cardi and Christian Stein Galleries in Milano and Waddington Galleries in London. In September a mosaic of great dimensions was installed in the entrance of 'Auditorium dell'Ara Pacis' in Rome. The work was projected in 2000 and was realized by Costantino Buccolieri.
- 2007 He did two sets for the production of *Oedipus Rex* and *Cavalleria Rusticana* at the Teatro Regio in Turin. During the same year he had an exhibition at the Museo MADRE al Palazzo Donnaregina in Naples, sight of the city's Museum of Contemporary Art, and the exposition *Sculptures* at the Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac in Paris. In September, an exhibition, curated by Angela Vettese, opened at the Civic Gallery of Modena, and the municipal government of that city commissioned the covering for the civic Ghirlandina tower during its restoration. In Solopaca in the Sannio mountains, he completed a 2500-square-meter permanent installation at the reservoir of the Camposauro dam. In October was inaugurated a mosaic for Teatro Argentina in Rome, installed in *pendant* with the other by Enzo Cucchi.