

Rod Dudley

An Australian Sculptor and Painter living in Northern Italy, where he first arrived in 1965. Rod works in an old ex-factory loft in a small town called Besozzo, a few minutes from the beautiful Lake Maggiore in Northern Italy (Lombardy). This is a stunning spot that he often visits at lunch time to be inspired by beautiful views of lakes and alps.

In Australia, as an art student and then teacher, he fell in love with Italian Renaissance art and particularly the 'Italian Quattrocento' – works by Donatello, Piero della Francesca, Bellini and Michelangelo. The works of contemporary Italian sculptors such as Marini, Emilio Greco and Manzu influenced him. Their work was figurative – nothing like the Tashist paintings of Jackson Pollock and other 'New York' fashions in vogue in Melbourne at the time. He also admired Henry Moore, however wanted to develop a figurative expression of his own.

The major influences on Rod Dudley's art have been English Pop Art – Hockney and Peter Blake, the German Expressionists of the first half of the 20th Century, Richard Lindner and contemporary Italian artists.

Rod's sculptures are often painted and his paintings are sometimes combined with bas-relief sculpture. He has always worked with wood. The earlier wood works were associated with 'found materials' – plastic, leather, shoes. More recently he has combined Lebanon cedar, mahogany, Western red cedar, walnut or cherry woods with bronze. This has also led him towards refining his own exclusive methods of creating models for bronze work.

The art world in Milan and Europe in the '70s and '80s was exciting and Rod participated in some of the best European Art venues. His work was regularly shown at the then vibrant European Art Fairs, as well as in exhibitions at the Venice Biennale, Palazzo Grassi (Venice) as well as the Musee d'Art Moderne (Paris). Simultaneously, in Australia, his work was acquired for collections such as the Adelaide Festival Centre, the Adelaide Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of the National War Memorial (Canberra), Victorian Regional Galleries, Transfield Collection, Phillip Morris Collection and Power Collection (Sydney).

Rod now regularly spends the European winters back in Australia, having acquired a property in Queenscliff, near Melbourne.

HISTORY

Born 1935

From 1959 – trained and worked as an art teacher in Victorian Schools (Australia) and resident master at Wesley College, Melbourne.

Early 60's – received an Italian Government Scholarship to study at the Brera Academy under Marino Marini and Alik Cavaliere. In Northern Italy in the late '60s, with wife Christina, met artists Luccio Fontana, Enrico Baj and Valerio Adami.

1969 & 1970 – First one man shows – Milan, Amsterdam, Rome

1971 – Milan Cultural Centre, Galleria S. Fedele. In the '70s Milan was alive with interest in contemporary art and new galleries were opening up everywhere. Collecting and art buying was the talk of the town.

1973 – Bonython Gallery, Sydney. Pieces acquired for Transfield, Power (Sydney University), Phillip Morris Collections and the Adelaide Public collections.

1973 – '10 Tall Women', Triennale di Milano. Subsequently purchased by the Adelaide Festival Centre, where they are currently still on show. 'Tall Ladies' were typical of Rod's work of the '70s – two metre high wood totems with no arms, legs taken from plastic shop models covered in leather, fur and wrought iron.

1975 – 'Portrait of a Family', Frankfurt Gallery at Koln Kunstmarkt

1974 – 'Ipotesi di una Casa Esistenziale', with Ico Parisi (an architect from Como) at Gallerie Germaine, Paris

1975 – 'Ipotesi di un Casa Esistenziale', with I. Parisi at Venice Biennale

1975 – 1980 Nicholas Treadwell Gallery, London, various European Art Fairs; "Mythologies Quotidiennes 2" with Treadwell Gallery at Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris.

1978, '81, '83 and '87 – One man shows at the Galleria del Naviglio, Milan

1984 – Palazzo Grassi, Venice with 20 Doge Portraits, 'Doges of Fashion – Travestimento o realta?'

1984 – Mineta Move Gallery, Brussels - Sculptures commissioned by Versace for Milan shop windows and subsequently at the F.I.A.C – Grand Palais de Paris

1985 – 2001 – Husstege Gallery, Den Bosch (Netherlands), eight shows including 'Homage to Hieronymus Bosch' (2001)

1993, '94, '97 – Anthological shows at Ascoli Piceno, Palazzo dei Capitani; Besozzo Council, Varese; Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Gallarate (all in Italy)

1990 & 2004 – 'In Search of Heroes' and 'Shaping Memory', eight Anzac Soldiers, National War Memorial Gallery, Canberra

1973 – 2005 – Sixteen shows in Australia, including Robin Gibson Gallery, Sydney (in 1982 – sculpture by Elton John).

CURRENTLY SHOWING:

Yearly – 'Galleria d'Arte Liberty', Angera, Italy (shows occur every year at around September – November)

Bridget McDonnell - various works for sale

Salt Gallery – various works for sale

Fiorella Gallery – Campo Santo Stefano, Venice (various Doges of 1984 in wood)

Portraits – Paintings and sculpture (by commission)