

Mitoraj at Pompeii



Igor Mitoraj's magical and poetical sculptures are on display at Pompeii (30 in total), fitting perfectly into this town frozen in time by volcanic ash, sharing the values of classicism and trial by fire. Beginning in mid-May, the world's most famous archaeological site will present the artist's monumental bronzes in an intensely human context. Fallen heroes with broken limbs are immortalized by their heroic setting of ruined palazzi where people once lived in the shadow of Vesuvio's power.

Already in 2011, Mitoraj placed his sculptures on display at Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, in Sicily. Last year after his death, his *Fallen Angels* were arranged in Pisa's Campo dei Miracoli, the sculptures poignant in their time and place. And before dying, Mitoraj had himself begun planning the Pompeii exhibition.

The Polish sculptor, who made his home in Pietrasanta, is known worldwide for his classical, larger-than-life sculptures, whose broken heads and limbs comment on the heroic values, reminding us of our human limitations – particularly relevant below the volcano at Pompeii. Sulphurous Vesuvius with its ominously unquiet earth evokes a sense of humility in the face of the cosmos and natural forces.

The display's arrangement was made under the direction of Luca Pizza, artistic director of the Mitoraj Atelier. The sculptures are situated from the Temple of Venus to the Basilica and the Forum,

from the Via dell'Abbondanza to the Terme Stabiane, and from the Triangular Forum to the Quadriportico of the Theatres.

According to Massimo Osanna, Director General of Pompeii's *Soprintendenza*, Mitoraj's works are mute iconic symbols of the profound value of classicism in contemporary culture.

The event was planned and promoted by the *Fondazione Terzo Pilastro – Italy and the Mediterranean*. In mid-May the catalogue, with images by Giovanni Ricci-Novara, will be presented at the Pompeii archaeological site. The exhibition will be on display until January 2017.

Admission to the Pompeii site
 1 April to 31 October 9am to 7.30pm
 1 November to 31 March 9am to 5pm
 (Last entrance 90 minutes before closing)
 €13 (€7.50 children)

Naples Archaeology Museum
 Open 9am to 7.30pm
 Closed Tuesdays. Admission €8.
 Free entrance
 1st Sunday of each month
<http://pompeiiites.org>

Grapevine can organize a trip to Naples & Pompeii June 4-5 with a minimum of 6 people. For information, please contact us at editor@lucagrapevine.com

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