

Les Italiens de Paris

Between 1928 and 1933, a group of seven Italian artists lived and worked in Paris: Giorgio de Chirico, his brother Andrea de Chirico (who took the name Alberto Savinio), Massimo Campigli, Filippo De Pisis, René Paresce, Gino Severini and Mario Tozzi. They followed on the footsteps of Amedeo Modigliani (also Italian), who lived and worked in Paris from 1906 until his death. These artists developed new concepts of art, distancing themselves from Futurism and re-affirming the importance of the Italian tradition, while at the same time establishing themselves firmly in the *here and now*. Much of their work is an homage to classicism but re-visited often in a disturbing, surrealistic or metaphysical way. The Lucca Center for Contemporary Art has brought some of these fascinating paintings to Lucca where they are now on display.

Le muse inquietanti by Giorgio de Chirico depicts two classical statues with eyeless sartorial mannequins for heads, situated in the foreground of a broad, grimly-lit piazza with the Estense Castle of Ferrara in the distance, alongside a factory.

Both Giorgio and his brother were born in Greece, and the classical tradition figures strongly in their art, but this is transformed by the historical context in which they lived, between the two world wars.

Le navire perdu by Alberto Savinio offers the colorful and playful vision of a ship filled with toys, but which has hit the reefs while an ominous grey sky hovers in the background. In some of Savinio's other paintings, we see beautiful images of god-like figures (Prometheus, Apollo) but rather than human heads, they have tiny faceless heads, or the heads of ducks.

These are only two of the many (48) uniquely expressive paintings on exhibit at Lu.C.C.A. Museum (from 17 October 2015 to 14 February 2016), offering a wide range of emotional experiences to the viewer. This exhibition, curated by Stefano Cecchetti and Maurizio Vanni, is one of the most exciting events in Lucca in recent years. Don't miss it!

Lucca Center for Contemporary Art - Via della Fratta, 36
Hours: 10am to 7pm Tuesdays to Saturdays



Giorgio de Chirico
Le Muse Inquietanti, 1950 ca.
olio su tela, 97x66 cm
Fondazione Carima
– Museo Palazzo Ricci, Macerata
Photo © Stefano Ciocchetti



Alberto Savinio
Le navire perdu, 1928
olio su tela, 82x66 cm
Collezione privata