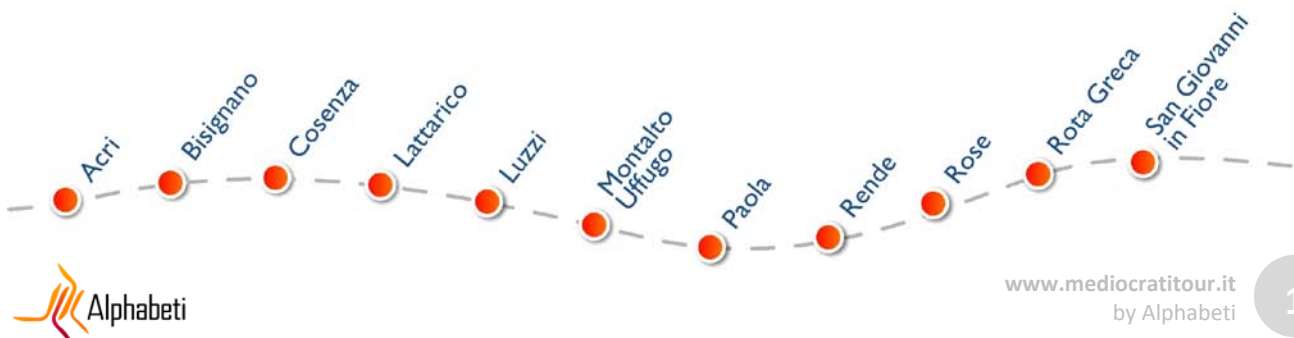


The MAB of Cosenza: The open air museum "Carlo Bilotti"

In the heart of the historic and commercial city of Cosenza, between buildings and antique monuments, there is a most particular open air museum, the MAB. The MAB was born thanks to the donation of a wealthy collector Carlo Bilotti, native to Cosenza but immigrant to America, who decided to donate his stupendous art collection to his city of birth after his death in 2006. This particular artistic route is in Corso Mazzini, made into a pedestrian isle, going from Piazza Bilotti to Piazza dei Bruni. The MAB houses the prestigious sculptures of contemporary art. Each sculpture is positioned on a luminous pedestal made of Plexiglas. Each pedestal has a sound system capable of reproducing musical instruments or an introduction to the museum.

With this virtual project you are presented with the most significant works of art of the museum:

Giacomo Manzù, *Il Cardinale* and *La Medusa*; Giorgio De Chirico, *Ettore* and *Andromaca* and *The archaeologists*; Mimmo Rotella, *Il Lupo della Sila*; Salvador Dali, *San Giorgio and the dragon*; Sasha Sosno, *The Bronzi di Riace* and the *Three Doric Columns*.



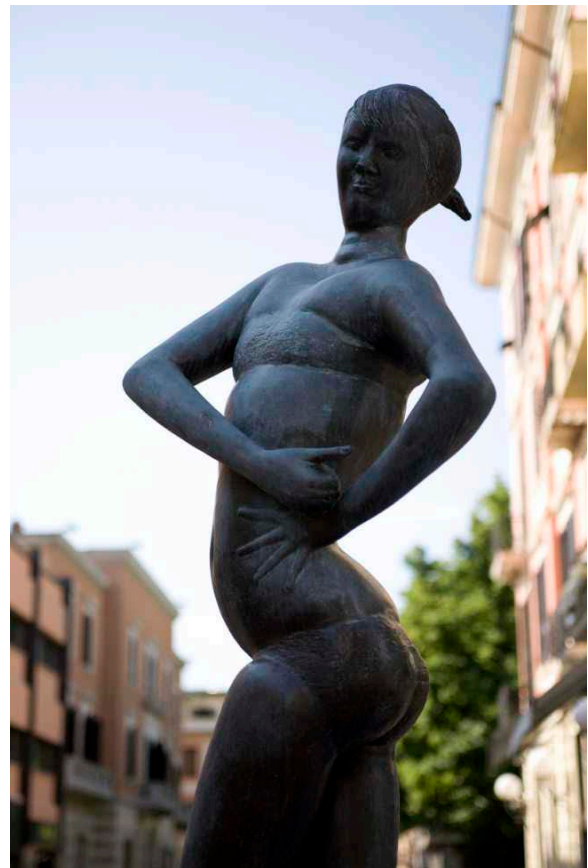
Sasha Sosna - The bronzes of Riace, The three columns

This sculpture is the artist's elaboration of the archetype of classic art. Through this vision of contemporary art and put in this concept, **the bronzes of Riace** still belong to this Calabrian land. The figures are cut from a rigorous bronze sheet. Through the emptiness of the silhouette, the spectator can see 'what's beyond'.

The three columns cut in white marble, are positioned in sequence, with the base placed on a small bed. On the capitals of the columns the classic architectural style can be recognised. Between the columns glimpses of the modern city can be seen, the past with the vision of the contemporary.

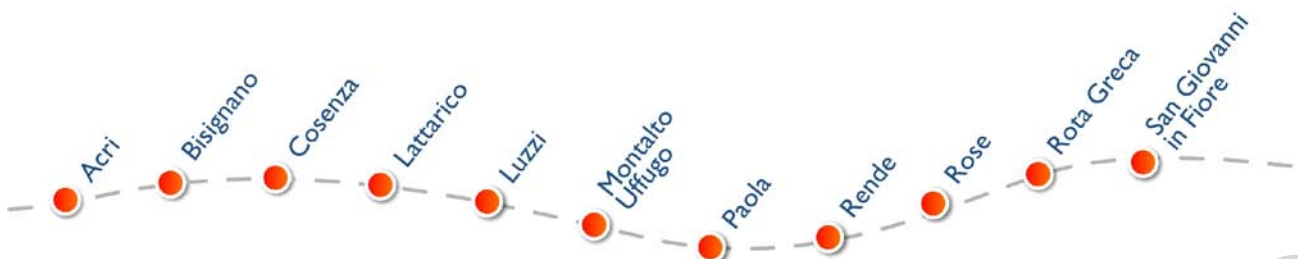
Sasha Sosna (Alexandre Joseph Sosnowsky) was born in Marseilles in 1937 and passed his childhood in Costa Azzurra. In 1957 after meeting Arman, Cèsar and Yves Klein, Sosno joined the group of the 'Nouveau Réalisme', thought up by Pierre Restany. Sosno identifies himself in this movement by his idea of 'obliteration', closing in to see better and understand better. In these works, exposed at the MAB – The Bronzi di Riace and the Three Doric Columns – the artist elaborates the archetypes of classic art, to take advantage of the collective memories as to

remember how our everyday life is radically to model and to thought of the classic occidental.



Giorgio De Chirico - Ettore and Andromaca; The two Archaeologists

In this group sculpture you can sense all the pathos linked to the farewell theme. **Ettore**, dressed as a warrior with lance in hand and a proud air, embraces **Andromaca** before the



battle. Andromaca, in despair for the departure her man, hides her face in his chest. The scene is interpreted by two of De Chirico's manikins, made more human by the gestures of the moment and the wind that moves Ettore's cloak and Andromaca's dress.

The two Archaeologists. Two figures, made from the manikins of De Chirico, are sat on a traditional stuffed sofa, side by side holding each other with a hand resting on the others back. Each of the manikins call for attention with drapery of classic manner. The figures each have architectures in the womb, vestige of ancient civility, another evident recall of the past and to the profession of the archaeologist. These architectures seem to come out of the chest of the two figures, made mysterious by the lack of facial features. One of the two is holding a tabloid that can be more often in the hands of De Chirico's manikins.

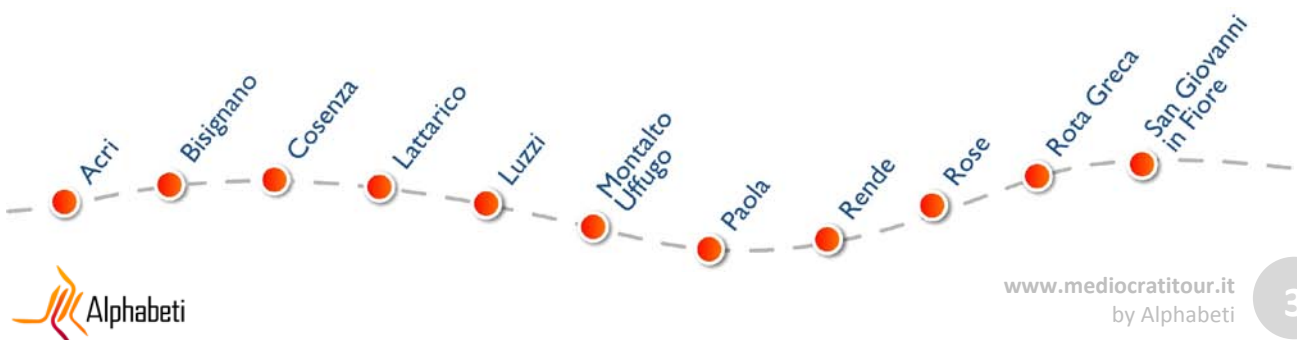
Giorgio De Chirico was born in Volos, Greece in 1888. From 1903 until 1906, he attended the design course in the Belle Arti section at the Polytechnic of Athens. Successively, after the death of his father, the artist moved to Italy with his family, then he moved to Monaco where his work was greatly influenced by Bocklin. Returning to Italy, he tried to give his work that mysterious and strong feeling that was discovered in the books of Nietzsche. His life has been a continuous journey through the cities of art: Paris, Rome,

Firenze, Milan. His career, long and productive, has been given many recognitions. Giorgio De Chirico died in Rome in 1978. Carlo Bilotti was a great collector of the works of De Chirico. The works of this artist, that are conserved at the Bilotti Museum in Rome are the representative of the most famous subjects produced by him in from second half of the 20's until the 70's.

Mimmo Rotella - The wolf of the Sila

This sculpture represents **the wolf of Sila** whilst it howls. It's made in green marble, simple and straight in its form. The features of the beast are completely missing but the whole body seems captured in a sinuous and lined movement with incise curves.

Mimmo Rotella was born in Catanzaro in 1918. Rotella studied art in Naples and in 1941 moved to Rome, although never really leaving Catanzaro. After the figurative beginnings and first experiments, he started to paint neo geometric paintings. His searches and experiments have orientated in different directions: photography, collages, assemblies of heterogeneous objects, phonetic poetry and primitive music. In 1951/52 he was in the United States but in 1953 he stopped the artistic production due to a crisis. Immediately, though, the 'Zen Illumination' arrived, as he described it, and he started the decollage production, or better said, strips of



manifests ripped from the street and glued onto canvas. His career continued strongly with this inspiration and he exposed his works in the most famous museums in the world and took part in the most famous exhibitions. Mimmo Rotella, considered one of the greatest Italian artists of the twentieth century, died in Milan in 2006. His works figure in the public and private collections of the whole world.

Salvador Dali (Salvador Felipe y Jacinto Dali) was born in 1904 at Figueras, in the Catalan province Gerona. Since he was a child Dali filled his life with fantastic imaginary figures. In 1921 he was admitted to the San Fernando Academy of Art in Madrid, but was soon suspended and then expelled due to the ferocious criticism he gave his teachers. His encounter with Picasso was very important to his life. In 1930 Dali developed the well known paranoiac-critic method. Another important encounter in his life was with Freud. The successive years were filled with honours and important set exhibitions in great museums such as the Guggenheim, the Pompidou centre and in the Tate Gallery. Salvador Dali died in the Galatea tower of his castle in Púbol in 1989.

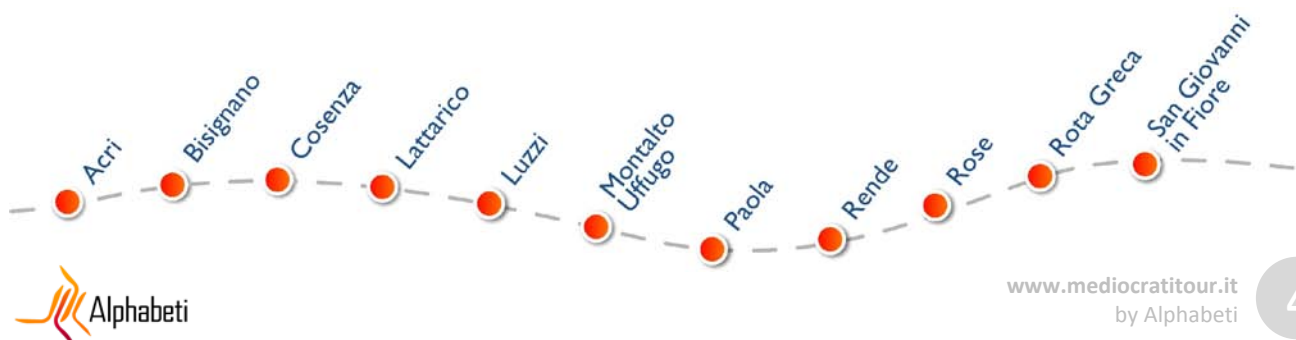
Saint George and the dragon The composition of this sculptural group (sculptural work) is arranged on three levels: on the lowest level there is the dragon, dominated by the rampant horse that imprisons it between its hoofs. On the horse there is Saint George that dominates the

composition. Saint George is piercing the dragon with his lance. The movement of the horse gives dynamism to the composition.

Giacomo Manzù - The Cardinal

The figure of the cardinal standing, presents itself as a solemn image in bronze made in a schemed pyramid structure. The Cardinal is wrapped in his stole, the gaze fixed and absorbed, the head of the dominant mitre. The figure is sombre, without any particularity that jumps to the eye of the beholder, just one hand that shows from under the stole.

Giacomo Manzù was born in Bergamo in 1908. His artistic experience began when he was a boy, when he enrolled in the Fantoni evening school of decorative plastics in Bergamo. The sculptures fame made a breakthrough in the art world, filled with people dedicated to him in 1937, through the Gallery della Cometa in Roma. From that moment on the works of Manzù became shown in all the most prestigious art shows in Milan, Paris and New York. Manzù's career has been long and fruitful to the point of meriting the appellation of the 'Michelangelo of the XX century'. He died in Roma in 1991. In the '30's during a visit to the Vatican, Giacomo Manzù was strongly inspired by the vision of the Pope sat between two cardinals. This image was the creation of the celebrate work of the 'Cardinals', present up until the end of his productions.



Arte e cultura da scoprire
La nuova dimensione dell'itinerario

