

FABRIZIO PLESSI

Biography, Bibliography, Exhibitions

Biography

Fabrizio Plessi was born on April 3, 1940 in Reggio Emilia.

He completed his initial studies at the Artistic Lyceum after which he enrolled at The Academy of Fine Arts in Venice where he would eventually become the head professor of the Art Department.

As early as 1968, he began to focus his artistic studies around the theme of water with the use of installations, films, videotapes and performances. His works were exhibited in 1970 for the first time at the Experimental Pavilion of the 35th Art Biennial in Venice and in the following edition in 1972.

In 1973, during the personal exhibition held at the Vinciana Gallery in Milan, he presented his *Acquabiographical* which contained most of his creations with themes relating to water.

In the following years, Plessi began to dedicate himself to performative actions and to present his artworks in public spaces.

In 1982 his artistic studies began to turn more towards environmental themes and the possibility of the use of video, incorporating three-dimensional structures. This was the origin of the illusionistic relationship between representation and the reality of the liquid element, amplified by the extreme technological possibilities that allow mechanical and electronical reproduction.

In 1984 he participated in the 41st Art Biennial in Venice with the video-installation *Water* and inaugurated the Museum of Modern Art in Villeneuve d'Ascq (Lille) with an important anthological exhibition. The following year he inaugurated his first important anthological exhibition held at the Rotonda della Besana in Milan, and which could be defined as the first exhibition of an environmental video-installation in Italy.

In 1986 he represented Italy during the 42nd Art Biennial in Venice and created one of his most significant works to mark the occasion: *Bronx*. The presentation of the monumental installation, *Roma* at Documenta 8 in Kassel, led to international recognition and marked a turning point for the artist.

From 1990 to 2000, Fabrizio Plessi was engaged as a Professor of Humanization of Technologies at the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, Germany.

On the occasion of the 51st Art Biennial in Venice, and in collaboration with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Plessi realized a new version of *Mare Verticale (Vertical Sea)*, which was placed at the Giardini entrance to the Biennial. Emerging from the water of the lagoon and towering 44 meters high, it became the symbol of that Biennial.

In 2011 *Mareverticali* with the support of Louis Vuitton, was exhibited at the 54th Art Biennial in Venice in the Venice Pavilion. Six boats in black steel emerge from obscurity while from hulls, video screens reproduce evocative sounds of waves and symbols of the sea.

In 2012 with the exhibition *Monumenta* in the archaeological park of the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, the artist exhibited 9 digital installations and at the same time his *Llaut Light* project designs in Venice at the Contini Art Gallery as well as the exhibition *Il flusso della ragione (The Flow of Reason)* in Padua.

In 2013 the Plessi Museum was inaugurated in Brenner on the motorway which once housed the customs house that served Italy and Austria, an innovative architectonic structure which also holds a permanent exhibition of video installations, sculptures, paintings and graphic designs dedicated to the art of this great Master.

Fabrizio Plessi currently lives between Venice and Mallorca.