Sei un mondo tu, Roma

Festival delle Accademie e Istituti di cultura stranieri

Rome, Palazzo delle Esposizioni
9 May – 30 July 2023

Promoted and organized by
Azienda Speciale Palaexpo

Curated by Cecilia Canziani
Assistant curators: Francesca Campana and Giulia Gaibisso

Sei un mondo tu, Roma is the first edition of an annual exhibition project accompanied by a rich program of readings, concerts, performances, and talks, promoted by Azienda Speciale Palaexpo and scheduled to take place at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome from 9 May through 30 July 2023.

The exhibition focuses on the link between Rome and the Academies and Institutes of Foreign Culture, emphasizing the city's international vocation, recounting the influence that this relationship has exerted on its urban planning and restoring its image through the gaze of foreign artists who have spent periods of residence there and who have often been able to look at it more accurately than its own inhabitants.

In the second half of the seventeenth century Rome was a cosmopolitan city, a privileged destination of the Grand Tour routes, a ripe ground for the development of an international milieu of scholars and artists who identified the city as the ideal place for the completion of their cultural and personal education.

In 1666, at the instigation of French Finance Minister Jean-Baptiste Colbert and Gian Lorenzo Bernini, the French Academy in Rome was established to accommodate young artists who won the coveted Prix de Rome. Over the course of the nineteenth century, the German Academy, the Real Academia de España, and the Scandinavian Circle followed the French model. Cultural representations from numerous other countries found their place in the city from 1911 onwards on the occasion of the Universal Exposition held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Unification of Italy, thus confirming the City's international vocation and renewing the legacy of the Grand Tour.

The representation of the landscape of Rome, starting from the genre of the *veduta* is the premise and starting point of the exhibition. Beginning in the second half of the eighteenth century, the prerequisites for a change in sensibility mature, for a gaze no longer aimed exclusively at the vestiges of ancient Rome, but rather at their new place in the contemporary landscape, which, at the same time, assumes greater representational autonomy: a landscape no longer idealized but directed at the phenomena of reality.

Beginning with this reflection, the exhibition brings together works by artists - united by having been residents of foreign Academies and Cultural Institutes in Rome - who narrate the city as a resource, a material that although represented with the foreignness of their gaze, recognizes its constituent and traditional matrices. At the same time, landscape as a genre or motif is often helpful in deepening or redirecting artists' research. Landscape as a pictorial genre gradually declined in the exhibition in different mediums and forms. It becomes a synthesis of elements, processes, relationships, habits, and gazes, simultaneously pertinent to man, nature, and the totality of conditions and possibilities of the land and environment.

The exhibition is accompanied by a public program aimed at offering in-depth investigation of some of the themes of the show and by a selection of documents from the archives of the participating Academies.