

The Ancestor

Opening: Saturday 14 September 2002 from 7 pm - midnight

Piazza Provvidenza 2- Al Frantoio Capalbio (GR) Tel 340 967 8392 0564 896484

Raffaele Bueno · Sandro Chia · Marco Delogu · Anna Rosa Gavazzi · Livio Marzot · Sebastian Matta · Andrea Mizzau · Alessio Paternesi · Benedetto Pietromarchi · Gaetano Pompa · Giovanni Ragusa · Giovanni Sanjust · Luigi Serafini · Daniel Spoerri

We have wondered for a long time what could have led a number of visual artists, endowed with assured creative fantasy and talent, to spend part of their time on the Tyrrhenian coast, where one of the first civilisations of the western Mediterranean arose. An area which was once called Tuscia, it was originally established in a dodecapolis (a group of twelve urban centres) around a mysterious virtual and ritual centre somewhere on the Cimini mountains, in the area where modern Viterbo lies today, and was absorbed around two thousand three hundred years ago by the chaotic world of Rome, the city for which it had already provided a number of monarchs from the Tarquinia region. Men of the Renaissance believed, perhaps wrongly, that Aeneas might have landed in these parts. Tuscia was divided in two at the beginning of the ninth century AD along a river of minor importance, the Chiarone. Charlemagne, with his infinite political far-sightedness, made the decision, wishing to set a southern border for the Holy Roman Empire and at the same time to honour the wish of his father Pipino the Short, who had donated to the papacy a political fiefdom needed for the greater glory of the Franks and the mediaeval Church. Accents are of great importance at this border: on one side the spoken dialect is that of Latium, on the other, it is Tuscan.

However, the border means nothing to artists: Sebastian Matta, the Chilean who is both Basque and French, lives twenty kilometres to the south and Sandro Chia, from Florence, twenty to the north; Gaetano Pompa, the Calabrian from Rome, lived the last years of his life south of the archaeological city of Cosa on the Tuscan promontory of Ansedonia. They, and so many others, have established themselves in this region for long or short periods of time. Their reasons were possibly many: the air in the wind, the water of the sea, the fire of the sun, the earth of the fields, following the best dictates of the four elements. But among the small number of migrant pioneers are some who joined for yet another reason. These are the ones who feel the still-living breath of the ancient inhabitants of Tuscia, the mythical Etruscans considered immortal by the Romans. They are the ones who believe that today's art exists because there has been a yesterday. They are the hyper-aware, the transformers of ancient rites.

Phoenix is organising their first official meeting.

15 - 30 September from 6:00 pm - midnight. Closed Tuesdays.

1 - 30 October: Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 6:00 pm - midnight.

Exhibition sponsored by Phoenix Etrusca

Phoenix Etrusca exhibitions have been made possible thanks to the contribution of Rottapharm - Monza.