

Stefano Zecchi, President of the Academy of Fine Art "Brera", Milan

BEING A MITOMODERNIST Anna Chromy's decisive choice

Art is our fate. It's born with us and with us will die. Every great philosophical thought is an artistic conception. Beyond traditional religions, what is sacred buds as living myth revealed by art. Where there is no art, existence fades, decadence becomes the existential logic of nihilism. This nihilism is responsible for the widespread of conformism as mentality and standardisation of ideas as successful behaviour, the theory of ugliness as form of art, i.e. the impossibility to define spaces for the identity to assess the ethics of existence.

Some philosophers and artists have great responsibility for this decadence because they have given up their idea of beauty.

Art has always played an important role in forming the individual: Western man has built his identity through art, but this age-old educational process was interrupted in the 20th century. There is, in creativity, a deeper bond between us and the real world. Art is the essential form to express creativity, representing action with sensitivity. This is why life imitates art much more than art imitates life. All this implies that morality of action be based on the "laws" of aesthetics. Myth-modernism is an aesthetic concept relying on the moral value of the history of creative energy, man's aesthetics, in which images and symbols of art continue to live.

We're still not out of the 20th century. Our way out of the 20th century is through the door of myth-modernism open wide to the meaning of European tradition to bring the universal truth of its myths into modernity and save it from nihilistic death.

The invention of a new artistic militancy, the acknowledgement of the millenary action of art: this is the challenge of the myth-modernism. Modern times demand a choice from the artist: adapt to the necessities of the time or challenge technological modernity. There is the artist that lives peacefully in the nihilistic desert because it fits perfectly into his idea of art. But there is also the artist that finds in the desert oases of salvation from nihilistic death because his awareness of the crisis leads him to look for the meeting ground between tradition and contemporaneity. Either one or the other: either nihilistic art and thought or myth-modernist art and thought. Either worn out and sterile heirs of technocratic philosophy of early 20th century avant-gardes or myth-modernism, avant-garde of the new millennium.

STEFANO ZECCHI

President of the Academy of Fine Arts «Brera» (Milan)

Professor of Esthetic Philosophy

Assessore of Culture, City of Milan