



PRESS RELEASE

Breathing art in New York in the '70s: the official opening of the exhibition “Alfonso Clerici - lezione americana (American Lesson)”

The artist's story in a selection of works exhibited from 7 May at the Sant'Agostino Complex of Pietrasanta, organized by the Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation

Pietrasanta (LU), 16 March 2023 - Alfonso Clerici's exhibition “lezione americana (American Lesson)” will open to the public on Sunday 7 May in Pietrasanta, to tell the story of the artist: from his beginnings in New York in the late '70s, to his most recent production, in his studio surrounded by the peace and quiet of the Gavi Hills. The exhibition, organized by the **Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation** and sponsored by the Municipality of Pietrasanta, in collaboration with Fondazione Versiliana and START - Save Tourism and Art, is set up inside the Sant'Agostino Complex, an important 16th-century convent area, completely renovated and refurbished to become the prestigious seat of the Luigi Russo Centre, with spaces given over to exhibitions and cultural events.

“We are very attached to Pietrasanta, and we appreciate the Municipality's commitment in promoting its role as a ‘City of Art’,” commented Paolo Clerici, President of the Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation, “and for this reason, we decided to organize, in this atmospheric location steeped in history, namely, the Sant'Agostino Complex, an exhibition that could combine the value of the territory with an international feel.”

“We fully endorse the Municipality's commitment in the promotion of important cultural events: for this reason, we are proud to host an artist like Alfonso Clerici,” commented Mayor Alberto Stefano Giovannetti, who retains the portfolio for culture of the Municipality of Pietrasanta, “This exhibition is part of a project to valorize the Sant'Agostino Complex, which has undergone major redevelopment work over the years to consolidate its role as an active and vital cultural centre. We thank all those involved in the realization of the exhibition, and in particular Paolo and Giuliana Clerici, for their precious commitment to supporting initiatives that help to bring added value to the community in our territory.”

The exhibition

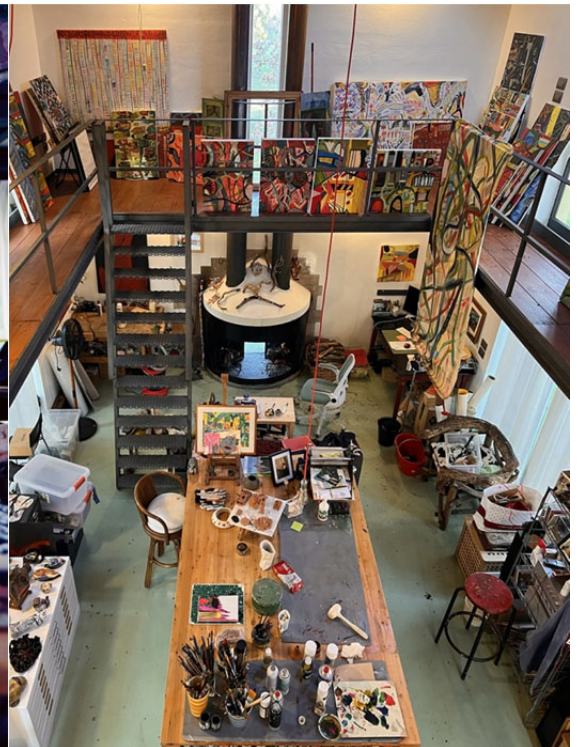
“lezione americana (American Lesson)” is a large exhibition spread through the Sala Putti and Chapterhouse overlooking the Cloister of Sant'Agostino. It brings together a selection of **paintings** on canvas, paper, and wood, **iPad Drawings**, as well as an abundant collection of **watercolours**, in which the colour plays a strongly expressive role, in washes, blocks and shapes that convey an intense emotional charge, made using mixed technique and the use of liberating, incisive gestures. At times, naturalistic elements emerge that recall places, physical, yet made dreamlike by time, such as the house of Stone Ridge, near Woodstock in northern New York, to which memories of the past are linked.

The exhibition “Alfonso Clerici - lezione americana (American Lesson)” will be open for visits from **7 May until 4 June, from Monday to Friday from 4pm to 7pm, Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 10am to 1pm and from 4pm to 7pm. Admission free.**

In addition, an **invaluable illustrated catalogue published by Tormena** will be available at the bookshop of the Sant'Agostino Complex.

Alfonso Clerici

A painter, multifaceted visual artist, and a photographer, Alfonso Clerici resided in the Village in New York from 1977 to 1982: here he participated in the fervent cultural environment of the city while establishing firm friendships with many artists, such as the photographers Alan Kleinberg and Jean Pagliuso and the writer-screenwriter Dirk Wittenborn. He also spent time at Andy Warhol's Factory, the studios of Larry Rivers, Julian Schnabel and many others (www.alfonsoclerici.it).



ORGANIZATION and EXHIBITION VENUE

ALFONSO CLERICI

lezione americana (American Lesson)

Organized by the Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation

Promoted by the Municipality of Pietrasanta, in collaboration with Fondazione Versiliana and START - Save Tourism and Art

A selection of paintings on canvas, paper, and wood, some iPad drawings, as well as an abundant collection of watercolours, all distinguished by a strongly expressive use of colour, which tell the story of Alfonso Clerici: painter, multifaceted artist, and photographer who made his début in New York in the late '70s.

7 May - 4 June 2023

Sala dei Putti and Chapterhouse

Cloister of Sant'Agostino

Pietrasanta (Province of Lucca)

Monday to Friday, 4 pm - 7 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10 am - 1 pm and 4 pm - 7 pm

Free admission

Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation

The Paolo and Giuliana Clerici Foundation was founded in 2017 on the initiative of Paolo Clerici and with the support of Coeclerici S.p.A., with the aim of carrying out philanthropic activities with civic, cooperative and social utility goals, to contribute to valorizing the territories and the communities that inhabit them also by means of art. Among the main projects carried out: the Coeclerici Room at the Galata Sea Museum; the Digitization of the Galata Sea Museum; the series of books on the History of the Italian Merchant Navy; the acquisition of the precious and historic Francesco Leoni Photographic Archive, made available to be studied and developed by the Mu.MA Institution in Genoa, the renovation of the Sala dell'Annunziata in Pietrasanta (Province of Lucca).

fondazionepaoloegiulianaclerici.com

The Sant'Agostino Complex in Pietrasanta

*The monastic complex, consisting of the **Church of Sant'Agostino** and the adjacent former convent together with the characteristic **Cloister** constitutes, together with the other monuments that overlook the Piazza del Duomo of Pietrasanta, a hub of great historical and artistic interest. The church was built starting from the 14th century by Augustinian Friars, who also built the adjacent convent in the 16th century. Its bell tower dates back to 1780.*

*Following the Napoleonic suppression of the monastic orders, the entire complex became the property of the **Municipality of Pietrasanta**. After some restoration, the convent initially housed a school held by the Piarists and afterwards continued to be used as a school building. In the 20th century, the area fell into a grave state of disrepair.*

The restoration work which began in the late '70s, has allowed a total recovery of the complex, which today is the seat of the "Luigi Russo" Cultural Centre and houses the "Giosuè Carducci" Municipal Library and the "Pier Luigi Gherardi" Museum of Sculpture.

***START - Save Tourism and Art** is a thinktank dedicated to cultural activities and territorial promotion which includes institutional representatives and economic entities of Pietrasanta and the **Versiliana Foundation**, which organizes the festival of the same name and the cultural activities related to it.*

comune.pietrasanta.lu.it

ALFONSO CLERICI

Alfonso Clerici was born in Genoa, Italy, on March 9, 1953.

A painter, multifaceted visual artist, and a photographer, he resided in the Village in **New York from 1977 to 1982**: there he participated in the fervent cultural environment of the city while establishing firm friendships with many artists, such as the photographers Alan Kleinberg and Jean Pagliuso and the writer-screenwriter Dirk Wittenborn. He also spent time at Andy Warhol's Factory, the studios of Larry Rivers, Julian Schnabel and many others.

A curious traveller, he has never stopped painting, exploring, elaborating, exhibiting, experimenting with new artistic forms, in his beloved studio surrounded by the peace and quiet of the **Gavi Hills**.

His production includes paintings on canvas, paper, and wood, iPad drawings, and watercolours: colour plays a strongly expressive role, in washes, blocks and shapes that convey an intense emotional charge, made using **mixed technique** and the use of **liberating, incisive gestures**. At times, naturalistic elements emerge that recall places, physical, yet made dreamlike by time, such as the house of Stone Ridge, near Woodstock in northern New York, to which memories of the past are linked.

Among his main exhibitions, are the **one-man shows** called "Patchwork", featuring large paintings from his New York period (1994) and "Coloured Notes" with watercolours and gouaches (2013) at the Orti Sauli Gallery in Genoa, an exhibition of **photographs** at the Tormena Editore studio in Genoa (2015), as well as participation in several **group shows**. In 2013, a **book** "Alfonso Clerici, A Modo mio", edited by Viana Conte and Titta D'Aste, was published by Canneto Editore.

His most recent projects include a 2020 cover design for the book "Peter Giannini - il Banchiere Gentiluomo" by Giorgio Chiarva, for Francesco Brioschi Editore, while in 2022 the Friulian winery Colmello selected six of his watercolours as original labels for their new production.

In 2023, there is a new one-man show inside the Sant'Agostino Complex of Pietrasanta entitled "**Alfonso Clerici - lezione americana (American Lesson)**".

alfonsoclerici.it