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Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera
Milano



LE AVVENTURE DI ANDREA BORTOLON

A cura di Patrizia Gillo

On wednesday 7th june 2017, at 6 pm, Antonio Battaglia Gallery presents the sculpture *Le avventure di Andrea Bortolon*, iconic work of Accademia dello Scivolo, obtained from Aldo Spoldi's work *Il mangiatore di mondi* and placed for the event in the gallery's characteristic courtyard .

Andrea Bortolon, infatuated, gets off the unicycle, which fixed him, like a monument, to a heavy basement, and, wielding a "new world" and a daisy, he throws himself in an acrobatic jump to Alessandra's balcony. Their purpose is clear: if the acrobatic jump succeeds, they will browse the daisy and the petals will tell them to love each other or not. On a such dizzy romance, Patrizia Gillo wrote: "Dear Andrea, leave Cristina, she's not for you, you know that statues have always seduced a lot, but you make the "Kiss" by Hayez dizzy.

More than one thousand people, moved by the motto "We don't work here, we play", joined together to make the acrobatic jump of the sculpture *il mangiatore di mondi*, which portrays the infatuated philosopher Andrea Bortolon, who rides an unicycle.

All Accademia dello Scivolo's students have sketched with charcoal and designed with set square and ruler the falling in love of the philosopher Andrea Bortolon.

Who's Andrea? He's a member of the Accademia dello Scivolo's scientific committee and author of the books *Lezioni di filosofia morale* e *Un dio non può farsi male*.

Biography

Aldo Spoldi was born in Crema, in the Italian region of Lombardy, in 1950, where he still lives and works. He went to the Beato Angelico arts high school, and then to the Accademia di Brera, both in Milan. He is a lighthearted, playful and theatrical artist. He is a painter, sculptor, musician, writer, teacher at the Accademia di Brera, member of the Società di Patafisica, signatory of the Manifesto Topista, and member of the academic committee of the Gualtiero Marchesi Foundation. The development of his career coincides with the transformation of art and society, each of which are reflected in the different phases of his work.

In 1968, the year of youth protests and spreading Marxism, he gathered together a group made up of schoolmates from high school. This was a group of mockers who performed burlesques in the public streets of several cities. In 1977, the year Marxism fell and the year postmodernism was born, after having constituted the Teatro di Oklahoma, Spoldi began his painting activity, characterized by theatrical pictures. In 1985 and during the years of financial immateriality, he transformed the humanistic Teatro di Oklahoma into a bank, a so-called limited company (an Italian business type called Srl, Società a responsabilità limitata) and subsequently into the Banca di Oklahoma SpA (Società per Azioni). In 1996 and during the years in which the European Union and the Internet were being built, he produced as an educational project with B.D.O. SpA a number of virtual characters – the artist Cristina Show, the photographer Met Levi, the philosopher Andrea Bortolon and the art critic Angelo Spettacoli. He published the books *Lezioni di educazione estetica*, *Cristina Show – frammenti di vita*, and *Lezioni di filosofia morale*. In 2007, the year of the great financial crisis and the search for concreteness, he began the start-up Accademia dello Scivolo. In 2012, he published the book by the philosopher Andrea Bortolon, *Un dio non può farsi male*. Met Levi was born in 1955 outside Brighton, United Kingdom. He received a classical education at secondary school, which he quit in favor of the arts. After falling in love with photography, it became his foremost occupation. As an analogue photographer and guardian angel, Met Levi has been following Aldo Spoldi's artistic work since 1968. After seeing the movie *Blow-Up* by Michelangelo Antonioni, he documented the playful performances of La Banda del Maramao by taking fast, grainy photos during their tours in cities

around the region of Lombardy (see *Ben venga maggio*, published by Diagramma/Luciano Inga-Pin, 1978). Levi also photographed Teatro di Oklahoma (in the journal of the Accademia dello Scivolo, *Teatro di Oklahoma – Whisky Quiz*, published by Antonio Battaglia, 2014) and Spoldi's virtual characters (*Cristina Show – Frammenti di vita*, published by Skira, 2001). In 2008, he became an official member of the academic committee of the Accademia dello Scivolo. Along with the theoretician Patrizia Gillo, Levi is a representative of Spoldi's first-generation virtual characters, which he conceived when he was still a student at the Accademia di Brera (see *Teatro di Oklahoma*, published by Trieb, 1975) and the second-generation characters, such as *Cristina Show*, *Angelo Spettacoli* and *Andrea Bortolon* (see *Happy Stage*, published by ICAS, 2002). Just as *Andrea Bortolon* influenced *Shy Architecture*, and *Angelo Spettacoli* influenced the constitution of the Accademia dello Scivolo, Levi gave his name to the studio-cum-store *Met Levi il Fotografo*. Timid and reserved, *Met Levi* has held but one solo exhibition, at *Galleria Open Mind* in Milan, 2005. His most significant photographs include *Il balletto di Chiasso*; *La ricerca*; *Tempesta d'amore*; and *L'ultima foto – Il Carnevalotto di Cristina*. Work of his is present in the collections of the *Fondazione Ambrosetti Arte Contemporanea* and the *Accademia dello Scivolo*.

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The exhibition will carry on till 15th september. Hours: tuesday-friday 4pm - 7:30pm