

## **42nd National Meeting of the Madonnari (2014)**

### **TECHNICAL NOTES**

- 1) The Madonnari National Meeting is a pictorial competition that takes place on the square of The Santuario della Beata Vergine delle Grazie at Grazie di Curtatone (Mantova), in a reserved area divided into 150 pitches (300 x 250 cm each).
- 2) The competition takes place over 24 hours, that is, starting from 5 p.m. on August 14 till 5.00 p.m. on August 15, feast of the Assumption. To follow, at 7.00 p.m., the award ceremony of winners. In case of rain or other event that prevents the start of works within 12.00 a.m. on August 15, the event will be postponed to day 16 (the start and closing times will be decided by the organizers).
- 3) The entries are collected at the cultural center, Piazzale Santuario, nn. 33-34 Grazie di Curtatone on 13 and 14 August, until the depletion of all the available pitches. Is it possible to proceed to the pre-registration (prior notice of participation mining to reserve a pitch in view of the proper entry) by contacting the Pro Loco of Curtatone via Francesco I Gonzaga, 14 46010 Grazie di Curtatone (MN) - tel. 0376 349122 fax 0376 347140 - e-mail: [proloco.curtatone@libero.it](mailto:proloco.curtatone@libero.it); and the Italian Centre Madonnari (CIM) Piazzale Santuario, 28 46010 Grazie di Curtatone (MN) - tel. 0376 349122 fax -0376 347140 Email: [museodeimadonnari@gmail.com](mailto:museodeimadonnari@gmail.com)
- 4) The registration in the Competition is open to all professional artists and to amateurs aged 16 or older (for minors it is required a release form signed by parents).
- 5) At the moment of registration, we require an identification document, the tax code, a telephone number and an email address, the car plate number and the payment of the registration fee equal to EUR 5 for each pitch.
- 6) The registration is individual. In the category of Simple Madonnari, teamworks are allowed (maximum three competitors for each pitch) and, in this case, must be indicated a group leader who will be the holder of any prize.

### **2 Materials, techniques, themes and subjects**

- 7) The paintings executed on the square are authentic expressions of ephemeral art, that's to say they involve the use of materials that are not intended for long-term; therefore they are made dry, with chalks, pastels or chalk powders, which are applied with the fingertips or with a tool to facilitate this gesture (sponge, smudge, rolled cellophane bag, cloth or brush). Liquid media, including water, are excluded. During the completion of the preparatory drawing a grid can be drawn, while it is not

admitted the use of molds or pouncing. It is considered non-adherent to tradition the use of spray colours, acrylics and oils that anyway leave persistent traces on the pitch which sometimes jeopardise its use for several years. That is the reason why the madonnaro using these inappropriate and harmful techniques is excluded from the competition.

8) The paintings have the recognizable and specific features of Grazie National Meeting of the Madonnari, being expressions of figurative art, consistent with the sacred popular theme of Christian inspiration (see attachment n. 1).

9) At the registration moment, each competitor must specify whether he will realize a copy or an original design of his own invention. In the first case he will present a photocopy of the model, while in the second case the artist is invited to present a sketch to a special committee which, without going into the merits of the artist's technical and aesthetic skill (a specific task of the jury), will have the opportunity to consider the convenience and congruence of the original design with the specific characteristics of the Madonnari National Meeting. The presentation of the sketch will preferably take place before the entry to the competition by contacting the Pro Loco di Curtatone via Francesco I Gonzaga, 14 46010 Grazie di Curtatone (MN) - tel. 0376 349122 fax 0376 347140 - e mail: [proloco.curtatone@libero.it](mailto:proloco.curtatone@libero.it) and the Madonnari Italian Centre CIM Piazzale Santuario, 28 46010 Grazie di Curtatone (MN) - tel. 0376 349122 fax 0376 347140 and-mail: [museodeimadonnari@gmail.com](mailto:museodeimadonnari@gmail.com)

### **3 Categories and Awards**

10) There are three categories of competitors, namely: Masters Madonnari, Qualified Madonnari and Simple Madonnari.

11) To each category is assigned a defined and distinguishable space.

12) The basic category is that of Simple Madonnari. The winner of this category passes to Qualified Madonnaro, the winner of the Qualified Madonnari passes to the category Master Madonnari. To the winner of the Masters category is assigned the creation of a original sketch that will be used in the poster of the further competition.

13) Prizes are distributed in the following ways:

- Master Madonnari: to the 1st in order of ranking, assignment of the medal and task to realize the sketch of poster for the further edition.

- To the 2nd and 3rd ranked in order of merit, assignment of the medal.
- Qualified Madonnari: 1st in order of ranking, assignment of the Madonnaro trophy for a year and passage to the higher category of Master Madonnaro.
- To the 2nd and 3rd ranked in order of merit, assignment of the medal.
- Simple Madonnari: to the 1st in order of ranking, assignment of the medal and passage to the higher category of Qualified Madonnari.
- To the 2nd and 3rd ranked in order of merit, assignment of the medal.

14) Additional prizes:

- Prize Pointed out works: No. 20 (at the atmost), without order of ranking
- Prize Parco del Mincio: single prize
- Prize Santuario Madonna delle Grazie: single prize
- Popular Jury Prize: single prize
- Rotary Prize: single prize

15) The Special Prize for Creativity, for unpublished and original works, will be distinguished from the others, but will have the same value, including the right to move to a higher category.

16) Any kind of recognition or reward in the form of ex-aequo is excluded.

17) The established appointments and qualifications are exclusive of the place of origin of the event

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#### **4 jury**

18) The Jury is appointed by the City of Curtatone as holder of the event and supplier of the prizes. A member of the jury is selected into the board of CIM Madonnari Italian Center.

19) The jury evaluates the paintings and provides for at least three observations of the works on August 15, in the morning and in the afternoon, anyway no later than 5.00 p.m. (except for further verifications required for a more correct evaluation of the works in view of the final judgment).

20) Judging criteria take into account the artist's skill in the use of ephemeral materials and painting techniques and the communicative power of the painting realized.

### **Refund of expenses in a forfeit sum**

21) On the morning of August 15 a daily allowance amounting to 20 Euros will be given, regardless of category, to replace the meal voucher. A single daily allowance is provided for those who will participate in team (that's to say there is not a daily allowance for each competitor).

22) At the end of the event the madonnari will receive a diversified contribution established by a special committee (not depending from the jury), according to the following categories: Master Madonnaro, Qualified Madonnaro and Simple Madonnaro. The criteria of evaluation are independent and unappealable and take account of various factors of economic and organizational type.

23) The evaluation takes place painting by painting, category by category, up to a maximum of 350 (three hundred and fifty) euro for the Masters and 300 (three hundred) euro for the Qualified. For the Simple evaluations are provided from 250 (two hundred fifty) euro down. For the teamworks a single reimbursement is provided for (that's to say no refund is provided for each competitor).

24) The refund settlement takes place on August 15 from 8.30 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. and definitively closes on August 16.

25) The reimbursement is neither intended as payment of the travel expenses nor as payment of the work done but, in the absence of a prior contract, comes up as the ransom of the painting from its author's rights and as a contribution to realization costs (chalk, pastels, stay, etc..).

26) Any claim referred to the reimbursement will be evaluated only if submitted in writing.

Grazie, July 5 2014

Comune di Curtatone

Department of Culture

Organization and management

Pro Loco di Curtatone

president Marina Ferrari

Madonnari Italian Center

president Paola Artoni

## **6 Attachment 1:**

**Text by Paola Artoni, president of the Madonnari Italian Center**

### **The art of the Madonnari is sacred art of Christian inspiration.**

The art of the madonnari that is presented in Grazie can be defined as sacred art. This term refers to the meaning of sakros, which in archaic Latin indicates what is dedicated to the divinity and its cult. More specifically, a feature distinguishing the Mantuan competition from the other manifestations of streetpainting is the connotation of sacred art inspired by the Christian tradition. It is not an irrelevant characteristic as in the world there are many expressions of sacred art but they refer to other religions or beliefs. The art of madonnari is therefore a sacred art for the theme that streetpainters develop, but also for the sacrifice that they themselves make in painting bent on asphalt blending the colours with their fingertips.

### **The art of the Madonnari is folk art.**

The art of the madonnari which for forty years has lighted up the churchyard of Grazie is a popular figurative art. In its simplicity of lines, colours, volumes, stylization is instantly loved by the public and arouses many emotions. It can be said that the paintings of the madonnari are part of the same type of popular sacred art to which belong the Christian nativity scenes, the statues of the dressed Virgin, crosses with the symbols of the Passion, the shrines, votive offerings for favours received.

### **The art of the Madonnari is ephemeral art**

The art of the madonnari is an ephemeral art. With this term, which comes from late Latin *ephemerus* and which means "what lasts only one day," non-permanent painting on asphalt is emphasized. The paintings of the madonnari are made of dusty materials and are subject to the vagaries of climate. A shower can wash works ... and then the madonnari resume with patience the job from the beginning. If we were to indicate a similar art that summarizes in itself the characteristics of sacred, popular and ephemeral art in the Christian context, we could refer to *infiorate*, while, as regards other cultures, we can find points of contact with the Indian *kolam* (lines of rice powder stretched by hand by women), the sand paintings of the Navajo and

the Tibetans sand mandala (whose destruction is a precise ritual ceremony, with the sand used that is released in nature).