

## **“CRISIS/DEVELOPMENT”**

### **Introduction to the 18th edition of Peano Foundation International Sculpture Competition by Manfredi Di Nardo**

The theme that Peano Foundation decided to propose for the 18th edition of the International Sculpture Competition is inspired by contemporary issues. In the last years the word “crisis” is more and more used by the media of the western world and it recurs in everyday conversations. The transition from a status of prosperity to a status of recession is a phenomenon that many economists consider a global crisis which affected more or less all advanced societies. The common mission of politicians and decision makers is that to find a way to restart growing .

Already in mid-seventies Pier Paolo Pasolini, one of major Italian artist and intellectual of 20<sup>th</sup> century, criticized the modern consumer culture as the only model of development pursued by contemporary societies. In the same way, many scientists think that an everlasting growth is not possible due to the limited resources of our planet. The most famous of them is the philosopher and economist Serge Latouche who, some years ago formulated the theory of “happy de-growth”, later specified in “frugal-abundance”. According to this theory the solution to the global recession consist in rethinking the needs to be satisfied according to resources available on the planet. Latouche’s proposal aims not only to the solution of global economical crisis but also to the adoption of a different style of life and so to a cultural and existential revolution.

The theme that Peano Foundation is proposing wants to encourage young generations, which are hit especially hard by this economic crisis, to reflect on the deep meaning of the words “crisis” and development”.

According to the Oxford Dictionary of English, the word “crisis” means: “a time of intense difficulty or great danger when an important decision must be made”; “the turning point of a disease when an important change takes place, indicating either recovery or death”. At the same way the word “development” means: “the gradual growth of something so that it becomes more advanced, more stronger”; “an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation”; “the process of starting to be affected by an ailment or feeling”.

In this way, “Crisis” has to be interpreted as a crucial stage whose solution is not necessarily positive or negative and “development” should be analyzed not only from the economical point of view (independently from the opposite theories of growth and de-growth), but especially in the overall meaning of “evolution of the civilization”.

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