

19° INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE COMPETITION SCULPTURE FOR THE TOWN

Introduction by Prof. Manfredi Di Nardo, BoD Peano Foundation

It was 1913, little more than a century ago, when Marcel Duchamp displayed his first *ready made* (a bicycle wheel mounted upside-down on a wooden stool). He was sure that a pure mental choice can transform a daily object into an artwork. The complex aesthetic implications of such a fact animated the most part of the twentieth-century debate on the nature of art and the definition of sculpture, aspect in which we are particularly interested in. To sculpt comes from Latin *sculperre* and it means to carve, to engrave (that is to represent plastically images such as “tuttotondo” or in relief) and it refers to the act of the human hand on raw materials. Considered this definition, can we accept as a sculpture also the assembly of preexisting objects through several techniques? Is their tridimensional character enough to credit these objects with the artistic category that we consequently define? The debate becomes even more wide if we consider also other kind of processes such as artistic installations based on a multimedia language.

The doubt is that the term “sculpture” may become purely conventional because of the ephemeral difference between artistic genres.

The young participants to 2015 edition of “Scultura da Vivere” Competition are invited to face these questions both on a conceptual and a factual level. The proposed subject, *Sculpture for the Town*, is intentionally not a theme, but the suggestion to think beyond the theme and concentrate on the final aim of the competition itself, that is the placement of a new sculpture into a public green area of the town of Cuneo. Students can choose their favorite subject and technique but they have to elaborate an artwork inspired by its destination - that is to be an open air sculpture - and to consider all the aesthetic, civil and material implications connected to that. They will have to be able to uphold a connection between their artwork and the urban contest (like a square, an avenue, a park or any other open-air space open to public).

An artwork is a cultural enrichment for the space where it is collocated. It interacts with the space itself conferring new meanings and promoting its requalification: especially in the case, like this, in which the object is specifically designed for the town.

The possible contact between the sculpture and the citizens demands the attention to the civil rules in terms of security and the absence of elements which may be dangerous. An open-air sculpture is exposed to weather-beaten and an accelerated aging: for this reason the choice of the more appropriate materials will be considered very important.

The ones mentioned above are just few indications, each artist is called to propose elements able to guarantee the success of his/her artistic operation.