



INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE/DESIGN COMPETITION 2023
- 27th edition -
THE EARTH
Mother of biodiversity and landscape

Introduction to the theme

This year is the 30th anniversary of Peano Foundation, that is 30 years since when Roberto Peano decided to transform the family plant nursery into a place dedicated to art. The memory of that nursery activity is preserved in the garden of the Foundation where more than 60 classified botanical species coexist with sculptures made by numerous artists.

To recall the special connection that Peano Foundation has with nature, for the 2023 edition of its International Sculpture Competition, it has been decided to propose the theme "The Earth" that, for the Italian speaking audience, recalls the edition of the year 2000, when students were invited to develop projects on the theme "Terra" where the capital T of the word - due to the lack of the determinative article in front of it - gave to the students a double possible theme: "terra" with the meaning of "soil", or "Terra" with the meaning of planet Earth. "The Earth" of the 27th edition of the competition is less cryptic and it has to be intended as "Mother of biodiversity and landscape": in the current debate on the consequences of man's action on the planet, biodiversity is an important issue since - limiting ourselves to the plant world - the continuous reduction in the number of species due to various factors (maximization of production, artificial selection of more resistant species, consumer orientations and so on) drains the genetic heritage and alters natural evolution by inducing uncontrollable anomalies.

Plant biodiversity is also important in terms of natural and agricultural landscape: the Earth's surface is largely covered with a blanket of meadows and trees that, by virtue of the variety of their species, creates wonderful landscapes which change with the alternation of the seasons: near Cuneo, the landscapes of the Langhe are listed in UNESCO World Heritage precisely because of the shape and colors of their hills, covered with unique vegetation that, especially in autumn, shows enchanting colors.

The landscape, the big natural parks and their conservation were an important field of study and academic and professional area of activity for Attilia Peano, President of Peano Foundation after Roberto until her death in 2013: therefore one more reason to dedicate the 2023 International Sculpture/Design Competition to the theme "The Earth, Mother of biodiversity and the landscape".

In the last sixty years, from land art to poor art, from art in nature to environmental activism, the Earth has been perceived as a lost natural world - but at the same extent - essential and it is still a determining element for those artists who are developing a new global awareness of ecological and social problems with their works. Let's think to the eco-sustainable projects by Daan Roosegaarde, Precious Okoyomon, Delcy Morelos, just to name a few. The materials used to create sustainable art works are recycled, non-toxic, and the focus is on climate change and nature conservation.

These suggestions have to be intended as a non-exhaustive address for the development of the work that the artist taking part to this competition intends to produce: the theme can be interpreted, with the maximum freedom of expressive means, in full autonomy and according to the subjective vision of the author. Just remember that the work must be placed outdoors in a public space in the city of Cuneo.