

THAYAHT, an eccentric futurist. Sculptures, projects, memories.



An exhibition held at Galleria Russo as a tribute to one of the most original representatives of the Futurist movement

Opening Thursday 9th February 2017, at 6 pm

Painter, sculptor, photographer, stylist, designer, architect, inventor and goldsmith: THAYAHT, originally Ernesto Michahelles, was an eclectic artist and innovator, an avant-garde experimenter of new artistic tendencies. For this reason, **Galleria Russo** gives tribute to one of the most important representatives of the Futurist movement, a characteristic figure of the art world between the two World Wars, organizing the exhibition “***THAYAHT, an eccentric futurist. Sculptures, projects, memories***”, scheduled **from 9th February to 2nd March 2017**. A preview of the show will be presented at **ArteFiera Bologna from 27th to 30th January 2017**.

The exhibition, curated by **Daniela Fonti**, has the scientific support of the *Archive Seeber Michahelles* and of the Association for the patronage and promotion of the work and the person of Ernesto and Ruggero Alfredo Michahelles. It intends to be a testimony of the polyhydic richness of the creative itinerary of the artist, which moves from Art Deco to the Futurist avant-garde. Approximately two hundred artworks will be exhibited: sculptures, drawings and paintings from 1913 to 1940. THAYAHT is considered to be a true “global artist”, working with multiple techniques, from painting to sculpture, from fashion to applied arts, from scenography to graphic illustration and advertising, from goldsmithing to interior design. All his production is noticeable for using synthetic lines and shapes that express an exquisite elegance through precise structures.

The drawing on ink and watercolour on paper that reproduces the “TuTa”, invented by THAYAHT and his brother RAM (Ruggero Alfredo Michahelles) in 1919, will be presented on the show. This art piece, inspired by the concept of functionality of Balla, confirms THAYAHT’s volcanic creativity. The TuTa was designed with a T sample, using straight lines, on either coloured hemp or rough cotton;

it was conceived to be a universal dress *tout-court*, worn by everybody with no social distinction. This is the symbol of THAYAHT's artistic production, always characterized by connecting aesthetic and function, elegance and economy.

That same year he designed the brand for the *maison* Vionnet, also presented in the exhibition: a *peplos* in the shape of a "V" held by a figure standing on an ionic column; the composition is characterized by the perfect harmony between the body of the woman and her dress, by the refined stylistic solutions in the use of the lines, and for the pureness of the volumes, in accordance to the Deco atmosphere of the time.

In the late 1920s THAYAHT approaches Tuscan Futurism and debuts as a sculptor, "he begins – as curator Daniela Fonti recalls – a not extremely large but however original production that represents one of the summits of the plastic research of Futurism of the beginning of the 1930s". The exhibition hosts some of his most famous sculptures, such as *Bautta*, *Violinista*, *Sentinella*, *Flautista*, *Tennista*, *Pesci*, including the flamboyant *Tuffo (dive)*, made for the Biennale of Venice of 1932.

"The exhibition is completed – continues the curator – with a series of drawings that come from the artist's private drawing-notes made between the two World Wars, in which the artist manifests his private world professing aestheticism, falling in love with the body of the youngsters lying in the sun and of the nature of Versilia, where he lived in, during various months of the year and where he decided to move to after the dark years of the war, disappointed by the lack of hope in an intent of social renewal envisioned by Fascism".

The exhibition rebuilds the eccentric and complex figure of THAYAHT in the artistic world of the twentieth century, presenting an incredible variety of artworks.

The catalogue will be published by Manfredi Edizioni (Cesena) with critical essays by Daniela Fonti, Carla Cerutti and Elisabetta Seeber.

Galleria Russo, Via Alibert 20. Rome. Free entrance
Opening hours: Monday from 4.30 to 7.30pm; from Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 7.30pm
Info: www.galleriarusso.com ; tel: 06 6789949 – 06 69920692

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