

Maurizio Calvesi

2008 Balzan Prize for the Visual Arts since 1700

For his outstanding work on the history of modern and contemporary visual art, which has contributed to a better understanding of the nature and development of modernism as well as to the study of the origin of new trends in contemporary art.

Three Research Projects on the History of the Visual Arts in Italy

Fondazione Albizzini. Collezione Burri

Adviser for the General Balzan Committee: Dmitry O. Shvidkovsky

Maurizio Calvesi has set aside the second half of the 2008 Balzan Prize for the Visual Arts since 1700 for three research projects involving five young scholars whom he will personally supervise.

1. *Antiquarian Culture in Rome from Biondo Flavio to Piranesi.* This project deals with a line of research which has already been taken up by scholars, but has not been explored in enough depth. From the works of the fifteenth century “antiquarians” to the problem of Polifilo, to Cartari, Pignoria and Cassiano, and from Pozzo to Kircher, Venuti and Piranesi, to mention only a few of the names that emerge, there developed a compact tradition that was full of internal cross-references that are obviously closely related to the history of the visual arts, from Pinturicchio’s cycle in the Vatican to Piranesi’s work. The research will be carried out over three years and will be done by three scholars: Stefano Colonna (in charge of the research), Camilla Fiore and Jacopo Curziotti. It will be followed by Professor Maurizio Calvesi, who has already produced various studies on these subjects.

2. *Critical edition of the sources and documents related to Caravaggesque painters and research to find new documents on them.* Professor Stefania Macioce, who will follow this research together with Professor Maurizio Calvesi, Professor Alessandro Zuccari and Professor Caterina Volpi, has already published a fundamental collection of documents concerning Caravaggio (S. Macioce, *Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. Fonti e documenti 1532-1724*, Roma, 2003), and a new expanded version of this book in 2010 (under the patronage of the Committee in charge of the celebrations for the 4th Centennial of Caravaggio’s Death).

The Balzan project aims to create an analogous *corpus* for the main Caravaggesque

painters, putting together a critical edition of the great number of scattered, already known documents and to produce an edition of new monographic volumes on some of the most important followers of Caravaggio. In the course of the research, carried out by Michele Nicolaci, it is possible that new documents on Caravaggio himself might also be discovered, and they would thus be included in the publication.

3. *Complete catalogue of the works of Umberto Boccioni.* There is already a catalogue of Boccioni's works, compiled by Ester Coen with the assistance of Maurizio Calvesi, who signed the introductory essay (published in 1982). Several imprecise matters in this catalogue, the new documentary evidence that has emerged on the painter, and above all the great number of unpublished works made known during the past twenty-six years, make a new catalogue of the works necessary. The complete catalogue will be edited by Alberto D'Ambruoso under the supervision of Maurizio Calvesi.

Statement by the Prizewinner: *Ho la buona sorte di poter contare ancora su molte energie lavorative, e questo premio, rendendomi anche più libero da eventuali occupazioni di sussistenza, interviene come una scossa salutare a stimolare vieppiù queste energie, offrendomi la speranza di portare a termine almeno alcuni dei lavori scientifici che avrei ancora in serbo, e anche di poter continuare a trovare un contatto con i giovani.* Maurizio Calvesi (Rome, 21.11.2008)