

Natino Chirico

Natino Chirico was born in 1953 in Reggio Calabria. After Art School he starts studying Architecture in Messina. He soon realizes he wants to devote himself completely to art and switches to the Accademia delle Belle Arti of Reggio Calabria. He moves to Milan first, and then to Rome, to complete his studies. Chirico studies with Domenico Cantatore at the Brera Academy of Milan, and with Franco Gentilini and Arnaldo Ciarrocchi in Rome. Despite of his figurative training, Chirico absorbs the lessons and research of the Neapolitan informal current, and starts painting in his teens, while he is still a high school student. His first exhibition, which dates back to 1973, already indicates a strong personality, and outstanding artistic skills.

As an artist, Chirico is intolerant to bonds and partnerships: his activity insists on research and experimentation in constant evolution. Throughout the years, he picks many different subjects and techniques, and gains diverse experiences, such as fashion designer (with Versace and Ken Scott) or illustrator in publishing. In this period, Chirico works with several companies, for which he creates paintings, graphics and sculptures.

After a successful first period as a painter, which results in works evidently recalling cubism or expressionism, from 1977 on Chirico starts focusing on drawing, creating large-scale works with sanguine pencil, mostly portraits, or still-life of objects from the world around him or his everyday life, in a search for himself and his own expressive means which leads to outstandingly effective results. In the 1990s he's completely back to painting, and renewed his attention to matter and color, as shown by his articulated series dedicated to the sea and Italian cinema.

In recent years, his great skills as a portrait artist emerge from his drawings. However, Chirico keeps choosing cinema as the main subject for his paintings: many of his shows, both in Italy and abroad, are centered on cinema's leading figures.

Later on, Chirico starts using methacrylate in his production, both as the only raw material, or combined to oil painting or other materials, in a successful synthesis of painting and sculpture.

His intense expositional activity is relentless: his works are exhibited in Reggio Calabria, Rome, Milan, Naples, Turin, Venice, Catania, Perugia and Todi, as well as

Paris, Warsaw, Brussels, Berlin, New York, San Francisco and Moscow. He is featured in countless collective shows, selected for contests and prizes, and honored with many national and international awards. Chirico's works are currently featured in several museums, private collections, and government or company buildings.

Natino Chirico currently lives and works in Rome and Perugia.