

Anton Roca (Reus, Catalunya, 1960) is an international artist who avails himself of an interdisciplinary and transversal method. All expressive means of contemporary art, not only traditional techniques and disciplines, such as painting and sculpture, but any creative activity within the scope of human existence, coexist in Roca's installations, as instances of a poetics that goes beyond aesthetics to reach ethics: art as a transmission of sense, where the artist takes on a collective role.

His artistic debut dates back to 1977. Later, he participated in several exhibitions (solo or group shows), both in Italy and abroad: from Catalonia, where he was born, through the practice of a nomadic consciousness of art, Roca travels all around Europe and North America: Germany, Hungary, and at last Italy, where he currently lives. In 1986 he founded his cultural project *Mental Permanent factory*, an imaginary mental state of permanent listening, where coexist dialogue, exchanges and collaborations among artists from different cultural fields: musicians, poets, novelists, architects and actors. The result was the project *luogoComune*, that in 2009 became a permanent creative workshop ([www.luogocomune.it](http://www.luogocomune.it)).

In the last two years, Roca has been involved in a project of artistic interchange at an international level, that will be implemented through the formula of artist residences, the *RadArt* project, an innovative cultural reality established in Mercato Saraceno - San Romano - in the area of Forlì - Cesena, where Italian as well foreign artists will be welcomed.

Anton Roca's works are part of public and private collections disseminated in a wide range of countries: from Reus and Alcover to Budapest; from Rome to Berlin; from Cesena, where he lives, to Québec.

Recently Anton Roca created a public work for Alcover, a sculpture in tribute to Catalan president Lluís Companys, inaugurated October 2008. ([www.arteco.org/antonroca](http://www.arteco.org/antonroca)).

«The Friends» of the Community of Sant'Egidio is a association that gathers more than 1000 mentally disabled people with their friends and relatives, that live in various cities in Italy and Europe. They witness a new and more conscious vision on mental disability, previously considered a sad and inexorable penalty. The Friends believe that together we can do many things and that no one is so poor that he cannot help someone else. That is why the Friends take part in many initiatives of the Community, especially:

- the international campaign against the death penalty
- the DREAM program against AIDS and malnutrition in Africa
- friendship with mentally disabled people living in institutions
- international sponsorship of disabled children in Africa.

The Friends' commitment was at the origin also of The Friends' Houses for disabled people, a new living model alternative to institutions, The Friends' Trattoria, to promote employment integration for disabled persons, and many art exhibitions, thanks to the Art studios of the Community.



Comunità di Sant'Egidio & Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea Sapienza Università di Roma

Simonetta Lux

us, Italy

us, Italy

Simonetta Lux (Rome 1943), Professor of Contemporary Art History at Sapienza University of Rome, founder in 1986 and director until 2010 of the MLAC (Museum of Contemporary Art Laboratory of the University La Sapienza), has been also coordinator of the Ph.D. in Art History and Director of the Master for Curator of Contemporary Art. Essayist and scholar of the history of contemporary art and architecture, she has published quite a few essays and books. She was able to characterize her point of view analyzing the relationship between art and power and the promotion of integration between critical-historical and scientific-humanistic creative and training processes. In the Seventies, she founded, with Eugenio Battisti, the Italian Society for Industrial Archaeology. In many ways she promoted and protected our cultural and historic-artistic heritage. She runs the quarterly magazine of contemporary art "Luxflux Proto-type" ([www.luxflux.net](http://www.luxflux.net)). Since 2004 she has been curator of the projects of cooperation between the Laboratories of art of the Community of Sant'Egidio for people with disabilities and many well-known contemporary artists ("I/O-lo è un altro - I is another", by César Meneghetti, and "noi, l'Italia - we, Italy" with Anton Roca).

Many historical and monographic exhibitions of contemporary artists have been curated by Simonetta Lux. Among her latest publications: *Arte ipercontemporanea. Un certo loro sguardo... Ulteriori protocolli di arte contemporanea*, Gangemi, Roma, 2007 and the essays *Sentimento e metodo di un'azione formativa creativa*, in SLAZAACC, curator S. Lux, A. Antezza, C. Cannelli, A. Zuccari, Gangemi, Roma, 2007; *L'arte contemporanea nel centro del potere, in Roma Paesaggi Contemporanei*, Atti del Congresso 28-30 maggio 2008, Campisano editore, 2009; *Pascali africano o del linguaggio totale in Pino Pascali Ritorno a Venezia*, curated by R. Brana, 54<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia, Di Marsilio Libri, Bari 2011; *Memorie, tracce, depositi: contesti e soggetti ipercontemporanei dell'arte in Arte e memoria dell'arte*, Acta of the Congress on 1-2 July 2009, curated by P. Mania e M. Ida Catalano, Gli Ori editore, Pistoia, 2011.

Alessandro Zuccari (Rome, 1954), Professor of Modern Art History at Sapienza University of Rome and Corresponding member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, is one of the four components of the Works of Art Committee of the Bank of Italy and member of the Steering Committee of the Rome Foundation. His publications cover a span of interests ranging from mannerism to the masters of the Renaissance and the Baroque Age. He significantly contributed to the realization of many important art exhibitions in Italy and abroad. Scholar of Caravaggio and his environment (he is member of National Committee for the celebrations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Centenary of Caravaggio's death), Zuccari widened his interests also to European Caravaggism. As chairman of the National Committee for the 550<sup>th</sup> years since the Death of Fra Beato Angelico, he promoted, among other things, the Congress on *Il Beato Angelico, il suo tempo la sua eredità* (Rome 8-9 June 2006) and the Exhibition at the Musei Capitolini *Beato Angelico, L'alba del Rinascimento* (catalogue curated by A. Zuccari, G. Marelli and G. De Simone, Skira, Milan 2009).

With the Community of Sant'Egidio, he has promoted "The Friends" association and the Art Experimental Art Studios of the Community (see: *«Abbasso il grigio!» - Catalogue of the Exhibition in Rome and in Strasbourg*, Gangemi, Rome 2003); SLAZAACC, *Con l'arte da disabile a persona, Mostrare, svelare, costruire, liberare pensiero, Intelligenza sentimento*, curated by S. Lux, A. Antezza, C. Cannelli, A. Zuccari, Gangemi, Rome 2007). In 2008, he promoted the Experimental Art Studio Museum of the Community of Sant'Egidio in the outskirts of Rome, at Tor Bella Monaca.

His works include: *Arte e committenza nella Roma di Caravaggio*, (Eri, Turin-Rome 1984); *I pittori di Sisto V* (Fratelli Palombi, Rome, 1992); *Storia dei Giubileo III 1600-1675* (curated by A. Zuccari, Giunti, Florence 1999); *San Pietro in Montorio*, (curator A. Zuccari, Eurografica, Rome 2004); *I caravaggeschi. Percorsi e protagonisti*. (2 vols. conceived and coordinated with C. Strinati, Skira, Milan 2010); *Caravaggio controllo. Ideali e capolavori* (Skira, Milan 2011).

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