



Press Release

The start of a new series of public events: Palazzo Grassi presents “Stories of Art. Meetings with Writers at the Museum.”

Umberto Eco will open the project with the first lecture in Italy: “The Vertigo of Lists.”

Monday 25 January 2010 at 5pm in Palazzo Grassi. Free Admission, on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Starting on **25 January 2010**, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana begin a series of lectures by writers, held in concurrence with the Mapping the Studio exhibition. Essayists, journalists and novelists will talk about various themes of art, relating their own personal experiences as those whose visits to exhibitions are at times inspired by keen interest, at times by idle curiosity.

Each meeting will be part of an overall fresco. Bringing together different points of view, it will describe the power of the visual arts and their multiform impact upon the life, sensibility and work of writers for whom art is not just an object of perception but something interwoven with lived experience and memory; something that generates a complex experience. Art seizes upon fragments of life and intuitions; it reinforces our sense of identity, receiving a range of notions and sensations to transform them with the same undeniable beauty. The great artists of past and present speak to us of life and death, of history and religion, of our sexuality and our soul; they offer us a vision of our time that anticipates that which is the future of all of us. And works of art are stories that reveal themselves to be narrated.

The first guest lecturer is a figure of international renown: **Umberto Eco**, who on **Monday 25 January at 5pm** will, for the first time in Italy, hold the lecture which was part of the cycle of activities connected with the Louvre in Paris, where as a *grand invité* in November 2009 Eco curated a series of multidisciplinary events relating to his latest book *Vertigine della Lista*, recently published by Bompiani.

The next lecture will be held on **25 February 2010**, again at **Palazzo Grassi at 5 pm**. This time the prestigious guest will be **Melania G. Mazzucco**, who will talk on the theme of *L'angelo di Tintoretto*. Winner of the Premio Strega in 2003, Melania G. Mazzucco would, in 2009, win various awards – including the Premio Bagutta – for her latest

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novel (published by Rizzoli) which recounts the final days in the life of the painter Tintoretto.

Admission to each of the events is free, on a 'first come, first served' basis. Information regarding forthcoming events will be posted on the site www.palazzograssi.it and in the Palazzo Grassi newsletter.

“Stories of Art. Meetings with the Writer in the Museum” is organised in collaboration with FAPI-Fondo Formazione Piccole Medie Imprese - and is part of Palazzo Grassi's project to hold theme-based public events that generate reflection upon – and involvement with – art. Just like the previous cycle **L'Opera Parla** - weekly events organised around individual works and artists in the on-going exhibition by the Scientific Committee of Punta della Dogana, in collaboration with the IUAV, Ca' Foscari and the Venice Accademia delle Belle Arti – this will be a project extended over a long period of time, aiming to become a regular date for a public comprising those already interested in art and those approaching it for the first time.

Palazzo Grassi, in fact, operates not only as a exhibition venue but also as a veritable workshop of ideas; as a point of reference for the international art world, it aims to involve artists themselves, intellectuals and students of art in fruitful encounter and dialogue. And all of this is organised in collaboration with the City of Venice, an ideal seating for a permanent workshop on art in general and contemporary art in particular.

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