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Ministero per i Beni e  
le Attività Culturali

# *Premio internazionale* **Volturno Morani**



**I° INTERNAZIONAL PRIZE**  
**Volturno Morani**

*Art from sacred fonts*

Facing the Book of the Cosmos  
In front of the revealed Word

MIRANDOLA  
Castle of Pico della Mirandola

With the sponsorship of:

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Comune di Mirandola

## THE AIM OF THE PRIZE.

What follows is a first original international prize for art inspired by Sacredness. Its first aim is to commemorate the work carried out by Volturno Morani, a complex and fertile painter, architect, man of faith and theology scholar. Only four years after his untimely death, his family, friends and admirers promoted a systematic outline of his paintings in a monographic work edited by Giuseppe Cordoni entitled *La quarta dimensione dell'anima – L'opera di un pittore neo-costruttivista* (*The fourth dimension of the soul – Paintings by a neo-constructivist artist*), Artestampa, Modena, Italy, 2008.

On a biennial basis, the prize aims to offer young artists from all parts of the world, especially students of Academies of Fine Arts in Italy and abroad, the opportunity to creatively ponder about aesthetics and consider the following aspects Volturno Morani profoundly felt and treated in the course of his entire career:

a) *The sacral perception of the mystery of Creation closely linked to theological intuition, scientific knowledge and aesthetic perception.*

b) *The renewal of the iconology of Sacredness in relation to the Word revealed through the centuries by the rich painting tradition as an important instrument to represent the light of the Gospels; each step inspired by a constant “recherché” of a new original “neo-Constructivist” language.*

c) *The way references to Transcendence, implicit in all creative processes, can be interpreted through works of art as personal investigation of the spirituality of religiousness which is dramatically concealed in the complex experience of the contemporary world.*

d) *The aesthetic dimension of Sacredness that may emerge from other non-Christian cultures.*

Moreover, it's not incidental that the term "vocation" is used for artists as well as for the clergy. Artists too pursue authentic emancipation through the energy revealed by the Beauty that transcends us.

They too accept and choose a different approach to the world. *They choose to overthrow the world's dominion over us.* If, for a long time in the past, the enlightening role of great visionary painters was to foreshadow the dimension of *The Kingdom of Heaven*, why shouldn't contemporary art be able to open our blinded eyes to the regained hope of Salvation?

How can we possibly forget the profundity of the message of His Holiness John Paul II in his enlightened *Letter to the artists* in 1999:

"Art is the experience of **universality**. It cannot be only object and means. It's the primitive language, in the sense that it comes before and is behind every word. It's the **original word**, that inquires into **the primeval and ultimate sense** of life, beyond the immediacy of experience. It's knowledge translated in lines, images, sounds, symbols that concepts can recognise as reflections of **life's mystery**, beyond the reach of concepts: doors, therefore, leading to the depths of the other inexpressible life, along paths that keep man free on his way to mystery and translate the anxiety unable to be expressed in other ways. Art, therefore, is **religious** since it leads man to the awareness of the anxiety deeply rooted in his being that neither science, with the **objective formality** of its laws, nor technology, with its error-free **planning**, will ever be able to meet".

## CONDITIONS OF AWARD

The prize aims to follow the course contained in the conclusive words of the invitation to artists by John Paul II:

“I wish you all, my dear artists, to be touched with particular intensity by these creative inspirations. May the beauty you convey to the generations of tomorrow cause them amazement! Wonderment is the only appropriate behaviour in front of the sacredness of life and of human beings, in the presence of the marvels of the universe.”

### FIRST EDITION (year 1 - 2009)

*People&Freedom* Cultural Association with the Patronage of the Italian Minister of “Beni culturali ed artistici” and the Patronage of the municipality of Mrandola together with the “Pico Castle”, organizes the 1<sup>st</sup> International Prize Volturmo Morani 2009.

Concourse is reserved to young people living in Italy and abroad, that will be evaluated from an international jury; more information hereafter and in the “Inscription Form”.

#### Suggested topics:

- 1) The sacredness of the Earth. The fate of our planet shaken in its vital equilibrium by man’s excesses. Pictorial comment on Psalm 24: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it”.

2) The biblical theme of the Transfiguration in contemporary painting. The narration of Christ's transfiguration holds a decisive central position in the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 17,1-8; Mark 9,2-10; Luke 9,28-36). A breach in the veil of darkness enveloping the heart of man: glimpses of his splendour in the true face of Jesus. The three apostles Peter, James and John are not the only eyewitnesses to his divine and human Beauty. For twenty centuries, from the great masters of the past, the language of painting has also become an instrument of *Taboric revelation*, lifting the veil from the divine face, pursuing, sensing, prefiguring and manifesting at least a glimmer of his secret identity and of his Kingdom of Love.

“ The face of Jesus is the fascinating century-old narration of the way art has endeavoured to capture the mystery of the guise of Christ through the centuries. A challenge for our imagination since all the images it will create in the future will be neither objective nor innocent. They will be the images of Jesus the world will need tomorrow” (*Fulvio Caroli*)

#### Terms and conditions for participating

a) All Italian and foreign painters under the age of forty, as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2009 may participate. Every artist may take part in both the proposed topics with only one work for each of them achieved with the technique considered individually considered most appropriate. All works must be of the following dimensions otherwise they will be excluded from the competition: 100 x 100 cm or 120 cm high x 80 cm wide.

b) participating artists must send within the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2009

- a high definition photo on DVD of each work presented,
- an abstract containing the title of the work, when it was achieved, the techniques employed, the real dimensions, the insurance value of the work,
- 10-15 lines on how and why the theme was treated
- a brief autobiography (in Italian/English)
- a CV concerning the artistic activity

to the following address:

*Volturmo Morani Award  
Il Castello Dei Pico  
Piazza Marconi 23, 41037  
Mirandola (MO) -Italy*

**Participant must:**

Compile the prepared module downloadable from the site [http://www.volturnomorani.it/it/documentazione\\_premio.htm](http://www.volturnomorani.it/it/documentazione_premio.htm) and then send them compiled at the following e-mail address [info@premiolvolturnomorani.it](mailto:info@premiolvolturnomorani.it) or [via fax al +39 059 809 243](tel:+39059809243).

The judging committee will choose twenty of the competing works for each of the two proposed topics and participants will be warned within the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009. In that case opera's must be sent, under the sender's total responsibility, to the address which will be decided in due course by the The judging committee's within the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The judging committee's decision is final and unappealable.

An elegant catalogue will be produced illustrating all the chosen works and there will follow an exhibition to be held in the charming Castle of Pico. The opening will take place on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009**. The exhibition will last from **19<sup>th</sup> December 2009 to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010**. The winners will be proclaimed on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010**.

### Suggested prizes

The proposed prize is a single and indivisible purchase-prize of €6000 (six thousand) for each one of the two sections.

### The judging committee

A qualified *technical judging committee* and of a *popular jury* will decide the winners of the prizes.

The *technical judging committee* will be made up of :

**MARINA TAGLE**, journalist (president of the prize);

**GIUSEPPE CORDONI**; poet and art critic (author of the prize and president of the jury);

**ANDRA DEL GUERCIO**; Professor Painting School; Director Fine Art and Sacrum Anthropology. Accademia di Belle Arti of Brera, Milan (Italy)

**ADRIANO BIMBI**; Professor of Painting. Accademia di Belle Arti of Florance, Florance (Italy)

**RINALDO BIGI**; Professor Technique and Technology of marble and sculpture. Accademia of Carrara-Pietrasanta, (Lucca), Italy

**GIANPAOLO ZIROLDI**, Museum Castle of Pico director;

**ROMANO COSCI**, painter and sculptor;

**BRUNELLO BALDI**, painter;

**Mns ROBERTO FILIPPINI**, theologian;

**FRANCESCO MARTANI**, doctor and artist and President of “Ca’ La Ghironda”, Art and culture museum in Bologna (Italy); [www.ghironda.it/](http://www.ghironda.it/)

**ADRIANO BALDI**, musician and cultural operator and President of “Adac-Grafica” art Gallery in Modena (Italy) – [www.adacarte.com/](http://www.adacarte.com/).

**EMMANUELE MORANDI**: philosopher;

**ISIDRO BOHIGAS BORRAS**: President of “Piramidon” International Gallery and Centre of Modern Arts in Barcelona (Spain) – [www.piramidon.com/](http://www.piramidon.com/).

This jury will allot **60% of the preferences.**

The **popular jury** will be made up of the visitors of the exhibition who will be able to give a preference to one work for each of the two themes. This jury will allot **40% of the preferences.**

The prizes will be awarded with a solemn ceremony during the exhibition, on **9<sup>th</sup> January 2010** when the preferences of both judging committees will be counted.



## FIRST EDITION (year 2 - 2010)

The organising committee will try the utmost to give an even greater aesthetic, liturgical and doxology completeness to the two winning works by exhibiting them throughout 2010 in public buildings and newly built churches and sanctuaries.

Using them as preliminary studies for works of much greater dimensions, the two winning artists will be invited to create them on larger scale employing the painting techniques they will consider most fit (e.g. fresco, oil on canvas, mosaics, etc.). All the executive aspects and details as well as the artist's remuneration will be determined in a **separate agreement** between the interested parties.

For more information please contact the following e-mail addresses:

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