

The *Premio Valcellina Award* splits up into four and more units!

by Renata Pompas

One of the most important and significant fibre art events in Italy is the "Premio Valcellina Award" that has celebrated its eighth edition this year. Started in 1995 with the purpose of promoting fibre art and enhancing the knowledge of textile activities among young people, under 35 years of age, it has gained resonance and attracted artists from all continents. This year 24 works were selected from the 81 applications from Europe (Italy, UK, Latvia, and Spain), Canada, Japan, India, and Taiwan.

This time the Valcellina Award has split up into a series of initiatives: the main competitors exhibition at the Coricama Museum, the "Stamp on War" exhibition at Liberamente Association, Justin Randolph Thompson's show at Palazzo D'Attimis' former stables, and the Partner Schools' exhibition at Le Arti Tessili Association Headquarters. There were also a rich number of collateral initiatives like urban installations, labs, book presentations, and documentary films. But let's list things in strict order.

Coricama Museum

On 14 April a large international public was welcomed by the Association staff and local authorities at the inauguration of the "Mixing Cultures" exhibition.

The winning artists were: 1st, **Kirstie Macleod** (UK) with a live performance. The artist was embroidering the precious gown of her garment called "Barocco", in this way extolling the gestural expressiveness of



1st prize winner Kirstie McCleod

the specific technique taken as an intercultural idiom common to different cultures.

The 2nd prize went to **Zane Kokina** (Latvia) with her 8-panel work called "After M. Antonioni's *Zabriskie Point* or *Long Way into the Dunes*". Her work consists of machine-embroidered printed and painted canvases, and interlaces the film and textile language together.

The 3rd prize was assigned to **Allyson Lynn** (UK) for her "8th February: *Hari Kuyo*", a piece of sculpture that puts together different elements – fabrics, porcelain, newspapers – assembled in such a way as to evoke the techniques common to both the English and Japanese cultures.

The "Calimala Prize" went to the young student **Milena Gabrijelcic** of the Bruno Munari Art Institute (Vittorio Veneto, Italy) that, thanks to its teacher Annaclara Zambon's work, spurs its students towards textile art.



The 4 prize winners with the organisers of Le Arti Tessili, Barbara Girardi, Anna Maria Poggioli, President, and Gina Morandini



2nd prize winner Zane Kokina, Latvia

Her work, "Walls' Skin Manifesto", consists of various layers of painted fabric, which have been cut so as to reveal the surface underneath, and the writing overlapping.

Some selected works are videos or are accompanied by videos. For instance, **Claudia Attili** (Italy) with her "On Shadowy Grounds" has presented a young and an old woman both embroidering an eiderdown while sharing the gesture. **Yasin Bayrak** (Turkey) has shown his "Memory" where he projects across a wire net the images of people replying to his question "what does traditional Turkish art mean".



3rd prize winner Alison Lynn , Scotland



' The world is assembled by a thread' by of Chia-Shan Lee, Taiwan

Lucia Travnik (Hungary) presents top quality black and white photos arranged in four panels that picture an artistic and intercultural interpretation of the bondage practice.

Photos are cut into thin strips in **Wu Pei Shan's** (Taiwan)'s "Family Album", a small vertical installation whose loose sheets connect the past with the present.

Chia-shan Lee (Taiwan)'s "The world is assembled by a thread" is a technically consummate sculpture made of newspaper yarns using crochet. **Santanu Das** (India) presents a gigantic sari (8.40 mt. long by 1.60 mt. high) resulting from the patchwork of many saris in this way mixing different Indian cultures.



God of Fox by Mariko Kobayashi, Japan

We will mention some other selected artists: **Regina Degiorgis Jimenez** (Spain), **Mariko Kobayaschi**, **Noriko Tomita**, **Sayaka Miyata**, and **Miyuki Tatsumi** (Japan), **Alisia Cruciani**, **Federica Burzi**, and **Livia Ugolini** (Italy), **Ruta Naujalyte** (Lithuania), **Deepa Panchamia** (UK), **Marloes Jongen** (Holland), **Krisztina Vigh** (Hungary), **Ming-Dao University Group** (Taiwan).

This edition's novelty is that the public may vote for their favourite work.

Palazzo D'Attimis

There was a suggestive and intense performance by **Justin Randolph Thompson**, an Afro-American artist residing in Italy. In his exhibition called "The first book of Africa" he presented a series of trees and sculptures wrapped with fragments of American patchwork quilts, accompanied by African ancient fabrics and masks. During his performance, he rubbed some grease on the greasy pole while singing a melancholic and deep sounding song.



Justin Randolph Thompson in performance

Liberamente Association

An astonishing array of carpets woven by Afghani children for the various army occupants, from the Russians in 1979 to the present day, to be used as strong visual instruments of political propaganda among the illiterate masses, was presented under

the title "Stamp on War". A documentary film "Inside Kabul" and the book "Guerre a Tappeto" (Carpet Wars) were also presented.



Presentation of Afghan carpets

Le Arti Tessili Association

This year, too, the "Valcellina Award" offered three Institutes, where textile disciplines are taught, the opportunity to present their work.

The **Bologna Academy of Fine Arts** has shown **Simona Paladino's** "Ment-al-ly", a huge conceptual work. It consists of 40 panels showing sinuous felt forms resembling brain circumvolutions. Upon the inauguration, two girl students were knitting with two



Fashion Designs by Simone Bruno of Academia Koefia

gigantic needles a collective fabric symbolically hinting at different cultures. The Academy Textile Culture Course has received an honourable mention for the highly qualified continued work in promoting textile art.

Koefia Academy of Haute Couture and Art of Costume, Rome, presented three haute couture creations by Simone Bruno. He has mixed white geometric architectural structures with tulle surfaces, and defined them with black graphic signs.

Afol Moda Milano has presented a new version of the "Textile Ri-Design" exhibition created by the Digital Textile Design course students. This exhibition was shown in Kaunas in an abridged version, then in full in Milan, and now has reached Maniago with new projects. (There was an article about this in the last Newsletter)

The "**Textile Ri-Design new collection**" consists of a series of cushions printed by "Clerici Tessuto" company that have been positioned on Soviet style posters lying on the floor created by the students. "Casa Minea" jewels, which are made of fabrics enclosed in plexiglas, have been placed on a table along with the video showing the latest projects, and an album containing some designs ready to be put into production. The project was promoted by Afol Milano with Afol Moda and the Italy-Russian Association.



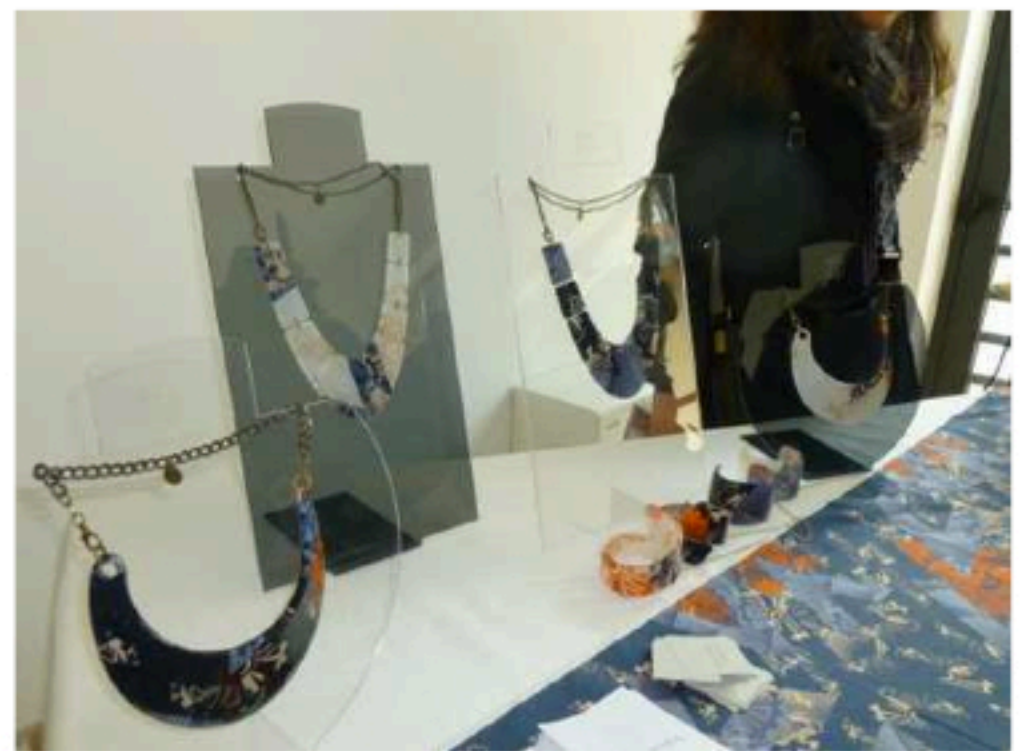
Digitally designed cushions by students of AFOL Moda



Large knitting by students of Accademia di Belle Arti Di Bologna

The guests enjoyed a buffet meal at this venue and fortunately the sun was shining so we were able to eat outside while networking.

Later in the evening there was "Night Talk" at the Arte Fabrice e Cotellerie Museum during which there were interesting speeches from the prize winners and some of the other competition exhibitors about their work. There was another sound performance by the Afro American artist Justin Randolph and Alessio di Carlo spoke about the "Stamp on War" exhibition of small carpets. Vanna Romualda of the Accademia di Belle Arti, Bologna, Lydia Predominato and Simone Bruno of the Accademia D'Alta Moda Koefia, Rome and Renata Pompas of Afol Moda, Milan also spoke about their students' work.



Fabric Jewels by Digital Textile Students of AFOL Moda

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