

Arp Fellowship 2019 report

Emanuele Greco, Art Historian, Firenze.

Project: *Arp and Italy: The reception of Hans Arp's work in the Italian artistic and cultural context.*

My project looked to reconstruct the critic and artistic reception of Hans Arp's work in Italy. My work regarded a comprehensive research that gather several aspects, including Hans Arp and Marguerite Hagenbach's contacts with the critics, the artists, the cultural institutions, the collectors and the art merchants in Italy. This insight has never been fully researched before, so it was interesting to analyze the documents first hand.

During my stay in Berlin – between May, June and July – I consulted at the Stiftung Arp material especially the archivistic kind as well as texts and catalogs from the specialistic library.

The most relevant contacts for Hans Arp and Marguerite Hagenbach Arp within the Italian artistic and cultural context that I found in the archivistic materials, especially from the Fifties, are the following: the critics Giuseppe Marchiori and Enrico Crispolti; the artists Leone Minassian, Piero Dorazio and Alberto Magnelli; the cultural institutions like the Biennale di Venezia, Festival dei Due Mondi di Spoleto, Biennale d'arte Triveneta di Padova; several art galleries, in particular Galleria del Naviglio (Milano), Galleria Schwarz (Milano), Galleria Narciso (Torino), Galleria Il segno (Roma); and the editors Alfieri, Fabbri and Silvana (Milano).

The researched material is mostly related to the crucial period, between the mid-1940s and mid-1960s, that regard the reception of Arp's work in Italy, where, indeed, the artist's work was identified with the organic abstract sculpture; and that was the most appraised phase by the critic, as well as the most admired by the young Italian artists.

Considering the broadness of my project as well as its complexity the period spent at the Stiftung Arp was the first and main step towards the development of the work. Moreover further research in other places is required, therefore some investigation in Italy has been done or is in progress.

For this reason some interesting materials consulted at the Stiftung Arp are and will be used for specific texts. In fact, at the moment, I'm working on an article about the story of an Arp's sculpture stored in the Cityhall collections in Florence, that was gifted to the city by Marguerite Hagenbach in 1967. Moreover, thanks to new documents and informations found

in the archive of the Stiftung Arp, I'm preparing a paper about the relationship between Arp and the Italian sculptor, Alberto Viani, for the next Arp Conference in Basel.

The objective is that the complete research about the reception of Arp's work in Italy will be published in the near future in a monographic book.

Finally I really enjoyed staying in Berlin and doing the research that I was able to carry on at the Stiftung Arp, thanks to all the archivistic material gathered and the rich library collection. Also I really appreciated all the support and guidance the Stiftung Arp's staff gave me, in particular Jana Teuscher and Jan Klopffleisch who were beside me since the beginning to the end of my stay as well as the precious suggestions and advices given to me for my research and the works I'm carrying on. Without a doubt my project has been enriched by the sense of community and partnership that characterized my relationships with the staff and my fellow colleagues at the Stiftung Arp. Many thanks.

Emanuele Greco

Florence, September 2019