

During the exhibition the Museum's educational services offer visits, learning workshops and - on demand - documentary projections: The yellow box by Tony West, 1996, (35') and Antiutopia. Mauthausen- Gusen 1944-1945 by Paolo Ranieri, 2006, (29')

Contact: free toll number Museiscuol@800553130

NOTES ON BIOGRAPHY

Germano Facetti was born in Milan in 1926. In February 1944 he was arrested for anti-Fascist activities, and imprisoned for several months in San Vittore. He was then deported to Mauthausen and eventually moved to Gusen sub-camp.

Back to Milan (June 1945) he took classes of graphics and advertising design at the Convitti Rinascita and worked for BBPR, a firm of architects, as a designer. In 1950 he moved to London, where he studied typography at the Central School of Arts and Crafts collaborating with British Olivetti.

The following years he was increasingly connected with publishing graphics. From 1959 on he associated with Paris movie industry.

In 1960 he joined Penguin Books, as an art director, totally transforming their graphics.

In 1972 back to Italy, he devoted himself to teaching, designing for the weekly magazine "L'Espresso" and becoming the art director of 'Storia del Parlamento Italiano'.

He died in Sarzana, April, 8th 2006.

This project is supported by

Exhibition by: Piedmont Institute for the history of Resistance and contemporary society "Giorgio Agosti", Gianfranco Torri

Concept, design and scientific coordination by: Ersilia Alessandrone Perona

Documents: Luciano Boccalatte and Andrea D'Arrigo

Film: "Germano Facetti. Gli anni di Parigi" by Paolo Sornaga (20', 2007)

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The exhibition is produced by Museo Diffuso della Resistenza, della Deportazione, della Guerra, dei Diritti e della Libertà

President: Ersilia Alessandrone Perona

Director: Guido Vaglio corso Valdocco 4/A 10122 Torino

Opening hours: 10.00-18.00

Thursday: 14.00 - 22.00

Closing on Monday

Free entrance

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(R)ESISTERE PER IMMAGINI

***Germano Facetti from the Lager representation
to the history of the Twentieth century***

25th January / 27th April 2008

“We didn’t want to live and witness but to live to be the witnesses” Primo Levi maintained in the Preface of the script: *Se questo è un uomo*. This motto drove even Germano Facetti, as a very young man, when substantiating all the horrors seen and suffered in the concentration camp of Mauthausen-Gusen in the period between February 1944 and May 1945 by documentary evidences. But very soon he closed all those evidences into a Kodak paper ‘yellow box’ and kept silent for half a century. He led a very intense artistic and professional life, working for twenty years in London, where he imposed himself as a graphic designer of the avant-garde, in contact with the most innovative international experiences.

Only at the end of the Nineties he opened his Yellow box to the public and talked of his own experience. First of all he started from his oldest drawings and documents, focusing on the war and violence of the Twentieth Century history, drawing its sources from the immense archive of images he collected throughout his professional life, listing them in the last years of his life, within this new perspective. The need to spread his message made him donate his archive of 22,000 images to the Istituto piemontese per la storia della Resistenza e della società contemporanea “Giorgio Agosti” just before his death, on April 8th 2006.

The exhibition is completed by the specially made documentary: *Germano Facetti. Gli anni di Parigi*, by Paolo Sornaga, 2007, (20’)

THE EXHIBITION ITINERARY

SURVIVAL

“The fil rouge of my life stood in the need to communicate: I was deported into a lager for putting anti-fascist posters about freedom; in the concentration camp I could save my life also because I forced myself to interpret gestures, learn some German words, defend my right to exchange thoughts as men, although written on wire sewn note books”.

LIFE

“I succeeded in surviving first and then in living; it was an amazing period, there was so much work for us. An eternal springtime. A sudden desire to be back to life. The time in which truth had to be suffocated was over”.

TESTIMONY

“Anguish was the reason why the box was kept sealed for so many years. But I really cannot spend my whole life staring at these books. They are out now, delayed because people say I am amongst the latest. And while witnesses die or commit suicide, it is worth opening the box and having a further nightmare, if you want... I opened them, as I actually reached the end of my existence, before disappearing like all the others, I have to do something with them: bringing my testimony.