

STORIE, SOGNI E TERRE LONTANE

Opening 20 November 2025 from 6 p.m.

From 21 November to 23 December 2025

Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Galleria Consadori is pleased to present the exhibition “Storie, sogni e terre lontane” (Stories, dreams and distant lands)

The ships – rowing boats, sailing ships, steamers – set sail for another place: a flotilla that carries the stories and dreams of those on board to distant lands, towards a future different from the usual one, intrinsic to the place where one is born. This openness to the future, of which navigation is a metaphor, finds its natural vocation in childhood. And perhaps this is why, in the imagination of two different artists – such as Piero Ventura (1937-2015) and Ali (Alfons) Mitgutsch (1935-2022), who share a common practice of illustrating children's books – we find such insistent images of ships and boats sailing towards distant and mysterious lands, towards a possible future, especially for that age group that still has its whole life ahead of it. Almost the same age, Ventura and Mitgutsch found themselves little more than children in two cities – Milan and Munich – devastated by a painful and lost war. Both project their optimism and hopes onto the next generation, which will grow up in the midst of the economic boom, to whom they also transmit their interest and passion for art as a means of escaping reality: they will each have three children, all artists. Piero Ventura carries out meticulous research and conceives educational books in which history is conveyed through his storytelling skills as an illustrator. Ali Mitgutsch was inspired by Kurt Seelmann, a child psychologist who encouraged him to imagine a type of book based on the overall view of the image, inventing the genre called Wimmelbilder – or Wimmelbuch fresco books – which are still very popular in German children's publishing today. Their commercial success promoted them to a very well-known role during their lifetime, but the memory of this has been lost over the years. For this reason, the exhibition, which displays original drawings and illustrations for both of their picture books, puts them back in the spotlight, also highlighting the evocative link between art, childhood and publishing through the work of other artists – Enrico Baj, Alighiero Boetti, Lucio Del Pezzo and Concetto Pozzati.

Roberto Dulio

Site-specific installations by Daniele Papuli on display

LIST OF ARTISTS

Ali Mitgutsch, Piero Ventura;
Enrico Baj, Alighiero Boetti, Lucio Del Pezzo, Bruno Munari, Ugo Nespolo,
Daniele Papuli, Concetto Pozzati, Fausto Rossi, Joe Tilson

BIOGRAPHY OF ALI MITGUTSCH

Ali (Alfons) Mitgutsch (1935–2022) was a German illustrator, known as the creator of “Wimmelbücher” — large illustrations crowded with details and little stories designed to stimulate discovery in children. Raised in Munich and marked by his childhood during the war and marginalisation in a village where he was displaced with his family, he developed a rich inner world of imagination that influenced his work. After training as a lithographer and studying graphic arts, he worked as an illustrator and in 1969 published his first wimmel, inspired by the paintings of Pieter Bruegel the Elder and following the advice of German psychologist Kurt Seelmann, who encouraged him to create a type of book based on the overall view of the image. His illustrations show both harmony and conflict, but always offer a positive and playful view of the world.

He illustrated over 70 books, which have been translated into 19 languages. He had three children. He passed away on 10 January 2022 in Munich.

BIOGRAPHY OF PIERO VENTURA

Piero Ventura was born in Milan in 1937. After attending the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Milan, he began his career as an art director in various advertising agencies in the city. At the same time, he cultivated a strong passion for storytelling and illustration, devoting himself to creating stories for children.

His first book, *Vanuk Vanuk*, was published in the United States by Doubleday in 1973, marking the beginning of his career in publishing.

During the 1970s, while working at the P&T agency, he met Gian Paolo Ceserani, a copywriter at the agency, with whom he undertook the creation of a series of books dedicated to great voyages and explorations, ranging from the exploits of Christopher Columbus to those of James Cook.

The series was a huge success, selling over a million copies and being translated into 25 languages, including a rare version in Inuit, the language of the Eskimos.

BIOGRAPHY OF DANIELE PAPULI

Daniele Papuli, born in Maglie in 1971, is an Apulian artist who trained in sculpture at the Brera Academy in Milan. His artistic research took a turning point in 1993, when he discovered paper making in Berlin. Since 1995, paper has become his material of choice, with which he creates sculptures through calculated lamellar compositions obtained from numerous manual cuts. His work ranges from sculpture to design, installation and scenographic installations.

Throughout his career, Papuli has participated in important international events such as “The New Italian Design” at the Triennale di Milano (2007), created installations for exhibitions and museums, and established the brand “Uff design by Papuli” for small-format paper objects, sold in major international stores such as Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman. He has held numerous solo and site-specific exhibitions in Italy and abroad, such as “Vis à Vis carte sculpture” (2010), “Le Gèant de Papier” (2011), “Metamorfosi” (2014) and “L'era della carta forme e visioni” (2017).