

Rosario Assunto (1915-1994)

Born in Caltanissetta. A student of Pantaleo Carabellese, he was a full professor of Aesthetics at the University of Urbino from 1956 to 1981, the year in which he obtained the chair of History of Italian Philosophy at the Faculty of Education of the University of Rome “La Sapienza”.

As a corresponding member of the Accademia dei Lincei, member of Arcadia, of Accademia di San Luca, of Accademia Olimpica Vicentina, he left a legacy of internationally relevant studies on the history and theory of aesthetics, also thanks to translations.

His most original and significant studies, in the last years of his life, dealt with landscape and gardens, for which - in conjunction with his «battle of ideas» - he was awarded the International Carlo Scarpa Garden Prize of Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche in 1991. He chaired the special Commission for the Protection of Historic Gardens of the Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Heritage, as well as the jury for the International Carlo Scarpa Garden Prize in 1990 and honorary president from 1991 to 1994.

He authored a number of theoretical aesthetic studies, including the following: *Il paesaggio e l'estetica (Landscape and aesthetics)*, Naples 1973; *Libertà e fondazione estetica (Aesthetic freedom and foundation)*, Rome 1975; *Filosofia del giardino e filosofia nel giardino (Philosophy of the garden and philosophy in the garden)*, Rome 1980; *La città di Anfione e la città di Prometeo (The city of Amphion and the city of Prometheus)*, Milan 1984; *La parola anteriore come parola ulteriore (The anterior word as an ulterior word)*, Bologna 1985; *Giardini e rimpatrio (Gardens and returning home)*, Rome 1991. His production of essays developed alongside a career as an arts feature writer, conducted with the elegance of a «neoplatonic aesthete» (as he defined himself), yet always true to the needs of spreading ideas and knowledge for the protection of gardens.