

*<<... for a musive artist, his material
is like sound for a musician
or words for a poet >>.*

Felice Nittolo

EMERSIONS

There is a profound linkage between Bologna and water; since the Middle Ages, water has been a fundamental element in the growth of the city and its commercial development.

With the passing of the centuries this important network of waterways has been progressively buried and the tar of the roads has taken the place of the water of the canals.

Only a few of these waterways are still viable today but those which can still be seen among the buildings of the city center seem even now to emanate that energy and vitality of former times, retransforming the city into the old Bologna of the waters.

Emersions: born of a union between the water and Nittolo's mosaics - two elements which communicate and interact in silence as they tell us of our history and our culture.

The concept takes shape from the words of Nittolo himself, when he declares his ambition to show that mosaics - of which he is a lifelong student - can be words, sound and pulsation.

Why mosaics in particular? It can be understood as a group of various elements which melt into a single subject and narrative instrument and is therefore an up-to-date means of demonstrating how many

small and diverse entities, if chosen and united with rigour and harmony, can create a stupendous work of art.

In a period of time like ours, marked by strong contrasts, art and culture are the instruments capable of reinforcing the links of co-operation and sharing among peoples; the various "tessere" of the mosaic unite in forming a great single choir.

The voice of this choir travels faster in the water, propelled by waves of high sonic intensity. Justly so, since sound propagates under water much more quickly than in the air.

Water can, however, also be interpreted as a mirror reflecting the conditions in which we now find ourselves. A momentary reflection of our society which, if only we had the will, with a rapid gesture we could regenerate and, who knows maybe change it for the better. Creatress of life but at the same time a dangerous temptress, water lets us see the flow of our existence. This thought is returned to us through spheres with small mosaic "tessere"; their purpose is to tell a story, freeing themselves from a purely decorative function.

Emersions: arising from the water, "invading" the Reno Canal, they create a choral harmony among the thousands of differing fragments. As Nittolo himself affirms, the mosaic is employed as a principle and a means, not as a technique.

Riccardo Betti