laboratorio d'arte
palazzo delle esposizioni


Cinzia Ruggeri, photo Occhiomagico

activity for children

CINZIA RUGGERI

The Art Quadriennale's 2020 edition kicks off with the work of Cinzia Ruggeri (1945–2019), an artist and stylist born in Milan and celebrated for her creations sitting somewhere on the border between art, fashion, architecture and design*. An unorthodox figure, she was christened "archi-stylist" and "art-stylist" on the international catwalks in the 'eighties. A familiarity with the art milieu (her father was a collector and her uncle a painter) and a sensitivity towards materials marked her formative years.

Frequenting the world of *haute couture* and industrial manufacturing helped her to form a very personal idea of design, in which clothes and accessories become tools for exploring and getting to know mankind, his feelings and his habits.

Cinzia Ruggeri's art revolves around our relationship with our body, our feelings and the environment. Thus inanimate objects take on a new and expressive life, communicating ideas. This is true, for example, of her famous "Slap" handbag, a round red leather bag incorporating a right-hand glove designed to carry things, to warm the wearer's hand and – if necessary – even to slap someone in the face! The glove sewn in and built in to the bag reflects our desire to hang on tight to our personal belongings but also our impulse to attack and to defend ourselves.



"Slap" bag, 1983

The grass Glove is another accessory designed to stimulate a specific feeling. What purpose can it possible serve? Certainly not to hurt anyone, light and delicate as it is, with its long blades of grass and light green mesh fabric. It was in fact designed to caress, to lightly stroke, to allow us to feel the pleasure to be had from walking through nature and being pampered by it.

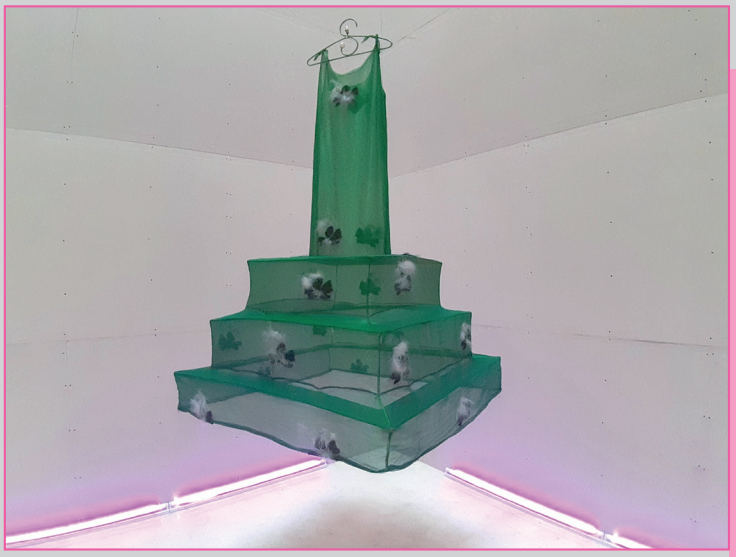
Cinzia Ruggeri's accessories are not mere fashion statements, they are works of art designed to be worn and to prompt us to reflect and to look on the funny side of mankind and his weaknesses.

Fashion has allowed me to explore the secrets of those who wear a given garment, their needs and their desires, their personal tics and their obsessions.



"Grass" glove, 1986

Cinzia Ruggeri's clothes seem more like pieces of architecture designed to be lived in than simple garments just to wear. The "Ziggurat*" dress conjures up an image of the ancient Mesopotamian civilisation and its sacred, stepped towers. Light and transparent, the dress is adorned with feathers and leaves, almost symbolising the bond implicit in a woman's body between nature and its power to create. This evening dress places the woman at the very heart of everyone's attention as though she were at the top of a tower, communicating with the gods of heaven.



"Ziggurat" dress, 1984

* glossary

DESIGN English word meaning the drawing or planning of an object. A designer is often an architect who plans the creation and manufacture of a product, meticulously studying its shape, its material and its function through drawings and prototypes.

ZIGGURAT or "God's mountain" is the name given to the temples of ancient Mesopotamia with their stepped design and their external staircase. Tall and sacred, they represented communication between heaven and earth.

Create a garment for living in, something playful, inspired by an architectural monument in your city, or like a portable house with everything you need in it. Starting with the model, design the various parts, including accessories and appliques for subsequent assembly. Put your own ideas and your own style into the design. You can use colouring crayons and collage too, cutting out pictures from newspapers or even using small pieces of fabric lying around the house. You can also add short descriptions, specifications and instructions alongside the various parts of the model using a pen and ruler. What does this garment tell us about you? What is it that makes it unique and personal?

now you try!

ISend a photograph of your work to our e-mail address:
laboratoriodarte@palaexpo.it
We will publish it on the "Give us a sign" page of our website:
www.palazzoesposizioni.it

