

# FISAE Newsletter

298

11.07.2023

Liebe Exlibrisfreunde

Ludmila Schustova schickt Fotos von der Eröffnung der internationalen Ausstellung und zeigt das Exlibris von Valerio Mezzetti aus Italien, das einen Sonderpreis errungen hat. Aus diesem Anlass kommen Illustrationen und Text eines Kataloges einer Ausstellung 2012 mit Valerio Mezzetti im Frederikshavn Kunstmuseum.

Dear friends of ex libris

Ludmila Schustova sends photos from the opening of the international exhibition and shows the bookplate of Valerio Mezzetti from Italy, which won a special prize. On this occasion, illustrations and text of a catalogue of the exhibition with Valerio Mezzetti at Frederikshavn Art Museum.

Chers amis de l'ex-libris

Ludmila Schustova envoie des photos du vernissage de l'exposition internationale et montre l'ex-libris de Valerio Mezzetti d'Italie, qui a obtenu un prix spécial. A cette occasion, voici les illustrations et le texte d'un catalogue de l'exposition consacrée à Valerio Mezzetti au Frederikshavn Kunstmuseum.

Cari amici di ex libris

Ludmila Schustova ci invia le foto dell'inaugurazione della mostra internazionale e ci mostra il piatto di Valerio Mezzetti dall'Italia, che ha vinto un premio speciale. In questa occasione, illustrazioni e testo di un catalogo della mostra con Valerio Mezzetti al Frederikshavn Art Museum.

Queridos amigos de ex libris

Ludmila Schustova envía fotos de la inauguración de la exposición internacional y muestra el ex libris de Valerio Mezzetti de Italia, que ganó un premio especial. En esta ocasión, ilustraciones y texto de un catálogo de la exposición con Valerio Mezzetti en el Museo de Arte de Frederikshavn.

Drodzy przyjaciele ex libris

Ludmiła Schustova przesyła zdjęcia z otwarcia międzynarodowej wystawy i pokazuje bookplate Valerio Mezzettiego z Włoch, który zdobył nagrodę specjalną. Z tej okazji ilustracje i tekst katalogu wystawy z Valerio Mezzettim w Muzeum Sztuki Frederikshavn

Дорогі друзі екслібрису

Людмила Шустова надсилає фотографії з відкриття міжнародної виставки і показує екслібрис Валеріо Меццетті з Італії, який отримав спеціальний приз. З цієї нагоди публікуємо ілюстрації та текст каталогу виставки Валеріо Меццетті у Художньому музеї Фредеріксхавна.

Дорогие друзья ex libris

Людмила Шустова присылает фотографии с открытия международной выставки и показывает экслибрис Валерио Меццетти из Италии, получивший специальный приз. По этому случаю иллюстрации и текст каталога выставки с Валерио Меццетти в Художественном музее Фредериксхавна

亲爱的前图书馆的朋友们

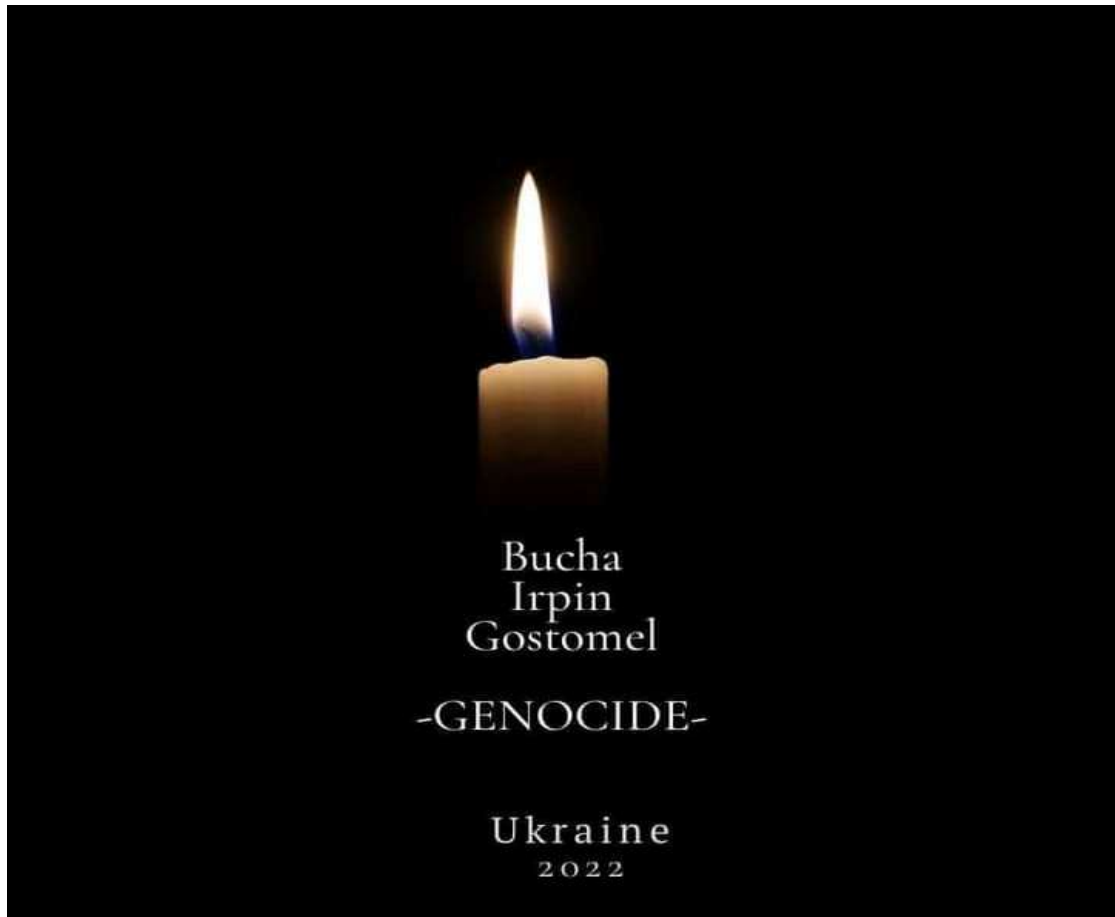
Ludmila Schustova发来了国际展览开幕式的照片，并展示了来自意大利的Valerio Mezzetti的书签，该书签获得了特别奖。在这个场合，与Valerio Mezzetti在Frederikshavn艺术博物馆的展览的插图和文字。

エクス・ライブラリスの皆様

Ludmila Schustovaが国際展示会のオープニングの写真と、特別賞を受賞したイタリアのValerio Mezzettiの蔵書票をお送りします。この機会に、フレデリクスハウソ美術館で開催されたヴァレリオ・メゼッティとの展覧会の図版とカタログの文章を掲載します。



*I - 55100 Nozzano Castello*



*Mariana Myroshnychenko*

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**Exlibris – Russland – Jekaterinburg - 2023**



*Fecit Valerio Mezzetti, I (Poster)*

Hier kommen Fotos von der Eröffnung der Ausstellung des internationalen Wettbewerbs "Exlibris- Russland - Jekaterinburg- 2023" in Jekaterinburg. Mehr als 300 der besten Exlibris wurden dem Jekaterinburger Kunstmuseum geschenkt. Der Sponsor des Wettbewerbs - das Internationale Zentrum für Kunst "Main Avenue" - hat einen weiteren Sonderpreis in Höhe von 1000 Euro gestiftet, der dem italienischen Künstler Valerio Mezzetti für sein Werk "EL Jekaterinburg" verliehen wurde.

Here are photos from the opening of the exhibition of the international competition "Exlibris-Russia - Ekaterinburg- 2023" in Ekaterinburg. More than 300 of the best ex-libris were donated to the Ekaterinburg Art Museum. The sponsor of the competition - the International Centre for Art "Main Avenue" - donated another special prize of 1000 euros, which was awarded to the Italian artist Valerio Mezzetti for his work "EL Ekaterinburg".

Voici des photos de l'inauguration de l'exposition du concours international "Ex-libris- Russie - Ekaterinbourg- 2023" à Ekaterinbourg. Plus de 300 des meilleurs ex-libris ont été offerts au Musée d'art d'Ekaterinbourg. Le sponsor du concours - le Centre international d'art "Main Avenue" - a offert un autre prix spécial de 1000 euros, qui a été décerné à l'artiste italien Valerio Mezzetti pour son œuvre "EL Ekaterinburg".

Ecco alcune foto dell'inaugurazione della mostra del concorso internazionale "Ex-libris-Russia - Ekaterinbourg- 2023" a Ekaterinburg. Oltre 300 dei migliori ex-libris sono stati donati al Museo d'arte di Ekaterinburg. Lo sponsor del concorso - il Centro Internazionale d'Arte "Main Avenue" - ha offerto un altro premio speciale di 1.000 euro, che è stato assegnato all'artista italiano Valerio Mezzetti per la sua opera "EL Ekaterinburg".

He aquí algunas fotos de la inauguración de la exposición del concurso internacional "Ex-libris- Rusia - Ekaterimburgo- 2023" en Ekaterimburgo. Más de 300 de los mejores ex libris fueron donados al Museo de Arte de Ekaterimburgo. El patrocinador del concurso, el Centro Internacional de Arte "Main Avenue", ofreció otro premio especial de 1.000 euros, que se concedió al artista italiano Valerio Mezzetti por su obra "EL Ekaterinburg".

Oto kilka zdjęć z otwarcia wystawy międzynarodowego konkursu "Ex-libris - Rosja - Jekaterynburg - 2023" w Jekaterynburgu. Ponad 300 najlepszych ekslibrisów zostało przekazanych Muzeum Sztuki w Jekaterynburgu. Sponsor konkursu - Międzynarodowe Centrum Sztuki "Main Avenue" - zaoferował kolejną nagrodę specjalną w wysokości 1000 euro, którą otrzymał włoski artysta Valerio Mezzetti za pracę "EL Ekaterinburg".

Пропонуємо вашій увазі фотографії з відкриття виставки міжнародного конкурсу "Екслібрис - Росія - Єкатеринбург - 2023" в Єкатеринбурзі. Понад 300 найкращих екслібрисів були передані в дар Єкатеринбурзькому художньому музею. Спонсор конкурсу - Міжнародний центр мистецтв "Майн Авеню" - заснував ще один



спеціальний приз у розмірі 1 000 євро, який отримав італійський художник Валеріо Мещетті за роботу "EL Єкатеринбург"

Вот несколько фотографий с открытия выставки международного конкурса "Экслибрис - Россия - Екатеринбург - 2023" в Екатеринбурге. Более 300 лучших экслибрисов были переданы в дар Екатеринбургскому художественному музею. Спонсор конкурса - Международный художественный центр "Главный проспект" - предложил еще один специальный приз в размере 1 000 евро, который был присужден итальянскому художнику Валерио Мещетти за работу "EL Екатеринбург".

以下是在叶卡捷琳堡举行的 "前文献-俄罗斯-叶卡捷琳堡-2023" 国际竞赛展览开幕式的一些照片。300多件最好的前文献资料被捐赠给叶卡捷琳堡艺术博物馆。比赛主办方--"大街" 国际艺术中心--提供了另一个1000欧元的特别奖，意大利艺术家Valerio Mezzetti的作品 "EL Ekaterinburg" 获得了该奖项。

エカテリンブルクで開催された国際コンペティション「Ex-libris- Russia - Ekaterinbourg-2023」展のオープニングの様子をご紹介します。300点以上の優秀なエクスリブリスがエカテリンブルク美術館に寄贈されました。コンクールのスポンサーである「メイン・アベニュー」国際アート・センターは、もうひとつの特別賞として1,000ユーロを提供し、イタリア人アーティスト、ヴァレリオ・メツェッティの作品「EL Ekaterinburg」に贈られた。



# МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ КАЛОГРАФИЧЕСКИЙ

Экслибрис –  
Россия –  
Екатеринбург –  
2023



К 300-летию  
Екатеринбурга

КАТАЛОГ  
ВЫСТАВКИ

*Exlibris – Russia –  
Ekaterinburg – 2023*

*On the 300<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary  
of Ekaterinburg*



Главный  
проспект

Музей  
ex libris









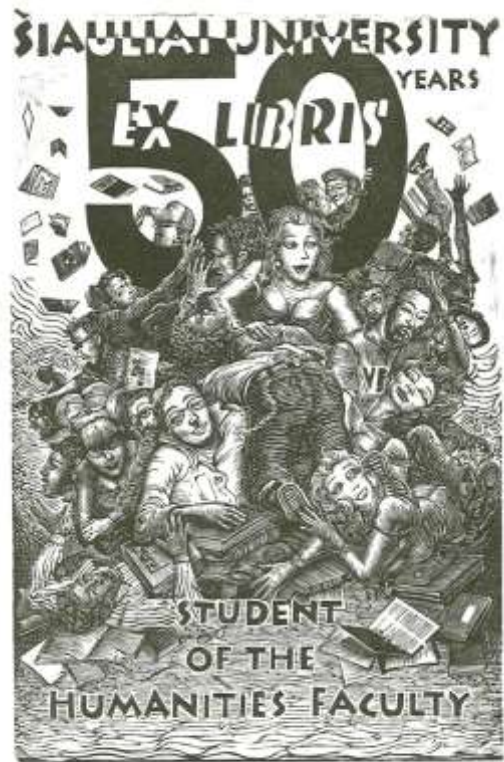


***Valerio Mezzetti***















Geboren am 22. Juni 1959 in Camaiore, Italien. Ausbildung: Abschlussexamen vom Kunstinstitut in Pietrasanta 1978. Diplom von der Akademie der schönen Künste in Florenz 1982. Aus Platzgründen gehen die übrigen Informationen aus dem englischen Text hervor.

Born on 22 June 1959 in Camaiore, Italy. Education: Graduated from the Art Institute in Pietrasanta in 1978. Diploma from the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence in 1982. For reasons of space, the remaining information is taken from the English text.

Né le 22 juin 1959 à Camaiore, Italie. Éducation et formation : Diplômé de l'Institut d'art de Pietrasanta en 1978, diplômé de l'Académie des beaux-arts de Florence en 1982. Pour des raisons de place, les autres informations sont tirées du texte anglais.

Nato il 22 giugno 1959 a Camaiore, Italia. Formazione: Diplomato all'Istituto d'Arte di Pietrasanta nel 1978 e diplomato all'Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze nel 1982. Per motivi di spazio, le restanti informazioni sono tratte dal testo inglese.

Nacido el 22 de junio de 1959 en Camaiore, Italia. Formación: Diplomado por el Instituto de Arte de Pietrasanta en 1978. Diplomado por la Academia de Bellas Artes de Florencia en 1982. Por razones de espacio, el resto de la información procede del texto inglés.

Urodzony 22 czerwca 1959 roku w Camaiore, Włochy. Wykształcenie: Ukończył Instytut Sztuki w Pietrasanta w 1978 r. Dyplom Akademii Sztuk Pięknych we Florencji w 1982 r. Ze względu na ilość miejsca pozostałe informacje pochodzą z tekstu angielskiego.



Народився 22 червня 1959 року в Камайорі, Італія. Освіта: Закінчив Художній інститут у П'єтрасанта в 1978 р. Диплом Академії образотворчих мистецтв у Флоренції в 1982 р. З міркувань економії місця решту інформації взято з англійського тексту.

Родился 22 июня 1959 года в Камайоре, Италия. Образование: Окончил Художественный институт в Пьетрасанте в 1978 г. Диплом Академии изящных искусств во Флоренции в 1982 г. По соображениям экономии места, остальная информация взята из английского текста.

1959年6月22日出生在意大利卡迈奥雷。教育情况：1978年毕业于皮埃特拉桑塔艺术学院。1982年获得佛罗伦萨美术学院文凭。由于篇幅原因，其余信息均来自英文文本。

1959年6月22日、イタリア、カマイオーレ生まれ。1978年ピエトラサンタ美術大学卒業：1978年ピエトラサンタ美術大学卒業。1982年フィレンツェ美術アカデミー卒業。スペースの都合上、残りの情報は英文から引用しています。

### **Work Experience:**

- Teacher of art education at high school level in various schools in Rome 1985-1990.
- Teacher of fine arts techniques, in particular engraving techniques at Istituto d'Arte F. Russoli in Pisa from 1990.
- Production of ex libris and participation in some ex libris competitions from 2005 receiving recognition.:
- Appreciation Award Lions Club Torino Crocetta in the international bookplate competition of the IX Paralympic games in Turin, Italy in 2006.
- Recognition in the international bookplate competition "Tipoteca Italiana" in 2006 Treviso, Italy.
- First prize in the bookplate competition of Siauliai for the 50th anniversary of Siauliai University Humanities Faculty in 2006, LT.
- First prize in the 3<sup>rd</sup> international bookplate competition of the commune of Bodio Lomnago in Varese, Italy 2006.
- Selected with an honourably mention for the international ex libris competition of Sint-Niklaas 2007, Belgium with the theme "The Beauty and the Forces of the Nature".
- Selected with an honourably mention for the international competition of ex libris "Bread, Cultural Heritage", Belgrade 2007.
- Selected for the 21st International Exhibition of Modern Exlibris in Malbork in 2007, Poland.
- Awarded in the international bookplate competition "Bosco Stregato" in 2007 Association Solstizio d'Estate, Bosia/Cuneo, Italy.
- Exhibition of wood engraving at the National Museum of the Royal Palace of Pisa – Monuments and Fine Arts Office december 2007 – february 2008.

- 3\_ prize in the international bookplate competition “Bosco Stregato” in 2008 (Association Solstizio d’Estate, Bosia/Cuneo, Italy.
- Awarded in the 4\_ international bookplate competition of the commune of Bodio Lomnago in Varese, Italy 2008.
- 3\_ prize in the international bookplate competition “Giovanni Segantini e la Brianza” Prix Pusiano, Como 2008 Italy.
- 4\_ Prize in the international bookplate competition “De Libera Universitate”University dell’ Insubriae “ Varese, Italy 2009.
- Special award “ Distretto dei laghi” in the international bookplate competition “150\_ years the Provincia di Novara “ Italy.
- Prize for the international ex libris competition of Sint-Niklaas, Belgium 2009 with the theme:” S. Nicolas “.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the international bookplate competition “Bosco Stregato” in 2009 (Association Solstizio d’Estate, Bosia/Cuneo, Italy.
- Personal Exhibition of wood engraving – ekslibrisy i inne Grafiki Galeria “Wratuszu” at the Slawno, Poland.
- Prize for International Ex Libris Competition “50th Anniversary Arti grafiche Colombo” Gessate Milano, Italy 2009.
- Selected with an Honorable Mention in The 2009 1<sup>st</sup> Beijing, China Erotic Ex Libris Exhibition.
- 1\_ prize in the international bookplate competition “Bosco Stregato” in 2010 Association Solstizio d’Estate, Bosia/Cuneo, Italy.
- 2\_ prize for xilography in the international bookplate competition – “AEM from its birth until today” –Milano, Italy 2010.

### **Introduction to the revival of wood-engraving**

Valerio Mezzetti was born on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1959, in Camaiore, a delightful town in Versilia, overlooking the sea and surrounded by a *landscape spanning from the sea to the Apuane Alps in such a rapid progression that an infinite range of positive sensations are stimulated at every change*. As a child, he lived in the big ancient house, *La Chiusa*, enveloped by the lush vegetation of the wood enclosed by a small stone wall, where his first dreams and adventures began.

His mother, a *noted* primary school teacher, taught him to read poetry *associating texts to images so as not to forget and gradually increase the freedom to evoke images* which greatly contributed to the formation of his sensitivity.

When he was a boy, he visited Rome with an uncle and was struck by the Sistine Chapel, by Michelangelo’s frescoes, *those images were fused forever in my retinas*.

At intermediate school, he met two art teachers, completely different persons who applied their skilful craftsmanship to modelling and graphic rendering of concepts. Thanks to them, he decided to pursue his art studies at the recently built Art School *Stagio Stagi* in Pietrasanta based on the teaching methods of the *Bauhaus* movement.

In 1977 he obtained the diploma in Plastic Decorative Arts and enrolled at the Florence Academy where he graduated in Painting in

1982 under Professor Fernando Farulli, following courses held by Fabbricotti, expert in marble and resins, Lenzi, architect and art historian, Viggiano, copperplate engraver.

After a teaching period in Rome, in 1990 he moved to the Art School *F.Russoli* in Pisa as teacher in Painting and Decoration, Visual Arts and engraving techniques.

Since 2000, he has been assistant in the engraving course entitled *Il segno inciso*, held the Art School of Pisa by Furio De Denaro in cooperation with the Faculty of Art Heritage, Arts and Art History of the University of Pisa and the Monuments and Fine Arts Office.

Wood-engraving is Valerio Mezzetti's fundamental interest and in copperplate engraving he prefers the half-tint technique which, *like wood-engraving, is based on the creation of light effects in the dark*

*parts by progressively scraping and burnishing with the possibility of corrections and modifications which is not at all possible in wood engraving.*

His interest in Gustave Doré's works has led him to discover the creative mastery of the *wood-engraving techniques of Pannemaker, Pisan, Bertrand*. The full potential of wood-engraving techniques, especially British wood-engraving, was revealed to him by Simon Brett's manual while Furio De Denaro's works *more than any other have made me discover a new world*.

Invited as expert to take part in a course, De Denaro masterfully put history and practise together and Mezzetti was attracted by his expressiveness which he found *both congenial and inborn in (the) artistic world* he was only theoretically acquainted with.

*I timidly started preparing my pieces of wood to carve with the burin: the essays, the pressure on the hand-press, roller and pad inking, everything was new and exciting and seemed to take me away from what had been my experience till then, teaching, techniques, and personal expression.*

It's not the least surprising, therefore, that Valerio Mezzetti, through engraving, has become interested in book plates since the third edition of *Il segno inciso*, thanks to the encouragement of Cristiano Beccalotto and Furio De Denaro

In 2005, he took part in his first competition entitled *Liber liber semper* held in Viareggio, an important cultural and literary centre in Versilia. In the same year, his *ex libris* obtained a nomination at the Gliwice International Prize (Poland) and was published in the catalogue by the Gliwice Library.

In a very short time he has received several acknowledgements: 9<sup>th</sup> International Prize Winter Para-Olympic Games of Turin 2006 (Lions Club recognition); nomination in the Italian wood-engraving section for the *Tipoteca Italiana* International Prize, Cornuda, Treviso; first prize in the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Competition *Opera and melodrama*, Bodio Lomnago 2007; selected with special nomination for the International Prize *Nature's beauty and might*, Sint-Niklaas (Belgium) 2006; selection at the 21<sup>st</sup> Malbrock International Prize, Poland 2007.

He is fascinated by xylography on horizontally cut wood which allows him to *use a warm and living material that obliges me to struggle with the burin against the imperfections of the*



wood veins, create the stencil and so feel it even more as my own. I find it enthralling to remove the fine shavings and create irreversible furrows of light that, as if by miracle, gradually become shapes that stand out against the dark background. I find copper or zinc plates rather cold, quite lifeless, although, I must confess, through them it's possible to achieve an infinite range of results but these are technical aspects which would distract us from our main concern.

For his ex-libris, he uses wood-engraving in function of the subject or theme and yet he tries to go beyond its conventional use in order to obtain effects which are more peculiar to chalcography than to xylography.

The lettering, the texts, the literary quotations do not hinder his compositional freedom, on the contrary, they complete the composition, blending with the image and the representation. I find it difficult to make good lettering (how hard it is to carve beautiful letters!) fit in with the rest of the composition: the dimensions, the position, the relationship between the blacks and the whites, the appropriate style, and so on.

For Valerio Mezzetti, ex-libris have a twofold significance: the visual message that underlines the fundamental and irreplaceable role of books for spreading and preserving culture, as a vehicle to foster interest towards graphic techniques ... and, at the same time, they represent a field of studies the artist has to delve into in order to assess the various aspects, with specific symbolic and communicative impact, he has to face in designing a book cover.

The bond between Mezzetti and books is vital: they represent culture hovering over *the sea of knowledge*, as in the surrealistic rendering in his first ex-libris accomplished for the competition *Liber liber semper* organised by a publishing house in Viareggio. The illustration for *Tipoteca Italiana* takes us into a printer's life, he is totally immersed in his world of lead and ink. In his work which took part in the Marlboro Prize *Indoor setting with ghost*, there are volumes with the prize title on the covers representing Marlboro Castle sarcophagi that recall previous edition of the contest. The typical presence of a female ghost, the soaring book-covers showing two portraits, the hand-press, snippets of the castle structure, a scroll with Gothic lettering make the scene gripping.

Two of his works created for *Opera and melodrama* reveal the world of opera and operetta. In the first, music scores and librettos are set on a stage from which emerge two figures of 18<sup>th</sup> century singers in Don Giovanni costumes. In the second, the figures of two singers standing on a libretto page, seem to be flying on a magic carpet above the audience, the orchestra, the prompter who gaze in amazement: we share with them the emotion and the bliss opera can bring. Magic lights reflected, flashes emerging from the light contrasts plunge us into a wonderland; we are not in front of a representation, an illustration, a tale or an exercise of skilful virtuosity for its own sake, what Mezzetti conveys through the images evoked is an expression of love for opera and melodrama.

The careful blend of sensitivity, a remarkable technical craftsmanship and precisely planned lay-outs transmit messages of concrete social relevance as, for instance, the two ex-libris which took part in the 2007 Belgrade competition entitled *Bread – a cultural heritage*.

On a table dripping with water partly covered by a chequered cloth, there the Earth, a cut loaf of bread; the chequered tablecloth represents various populations of the world recognisable from the typical headgear worn. There are two essential elements in the scenes: fire, *necessary for baking the bread but also symbol of destruction and struggle for survival* and water *that stands for purity and transparency*, but it too is essential for survival. In the sky, high above, there is a dove.

*Towards freedom* is divided along a vertical axis with the lower section dedicated to pain and prison contrasting with salvation and freedom above.

The chains and the barbed wire, limiting the chasm with imploring hands and arms arising, become flowers clutched by a slender girl.

His composition and the carved lines take us back to the very origins of classical wood-engraving which implies study, dedication, hard work, and skilfulness. Wood-engraving is Mezzetti's language which makes us share moments of real life.

In times when not many are willing to take up the challenge of wood-engraving, Mezzetti's works, the confident traits of his lines, his obstinate insistence on contrasts of black and white and his mastery of the art of drawing are hopeful signs of a revival of this technique which contains all the contrasts of life: life and death, day and night, good and evil, love and hatred.

*Gian Carlo Torre*

### **Supplement awards until 2023:**

3rd prize in the competition "L'Ex Libris nella Divina Commedia"- Bodio lomnago 2021; 1st prize ex aequo Concorso Premio Internazionale Ex Libris e Piccola Grafica - "Dante 2021 Luoghi e personaggi della Tuscia e di Orvieto nella Divina Commedia"; 1: "The Pink and Yellow"; 2nd prize. 1st Prize International Competition Ex Libris "Lithuanian Gothic Art: Reflections on Aesthetics and the Phenomena of Trakai" Poland "Trakai 700°"; 1st Prize, First Prize, International Competition Bodio Lomnago Library on the theme: "Pinocchio "3. 1st prize in the competition "L'Ex Libris nella Divina Commedia"- Bodio lomnago 2021; 1st prize ex aequo Concorso Premio Internazionale Ex Libris e Piccola Grafica - "Dante 2021 Luoghi e personaggi della Tuscia e di Orvieto nella Divina Commedia"; 1: "The Pink and Yellow"; 2. 1st Prize International Competition Ex Libris "Lithuanian Gothic Art: Reflections on Aesthetics and the Phenomena of Trakai" Poland "Trakai 700°"; 1st Prize, First Prize, International Competition Bodio Lomnago Library on the theme: "Pinocchio".

Adresse:

Graphic artist

Valerio Mezzetti

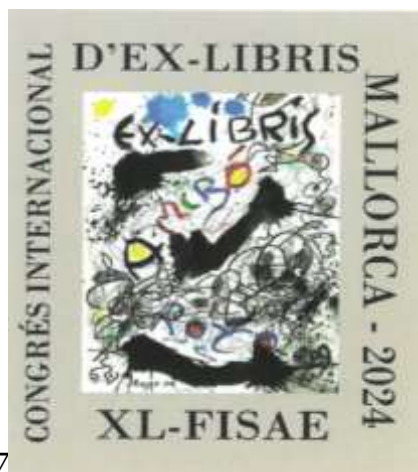
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*Ukraine for ever*

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### FISAE Newsletter

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