

# M Museo Premio Ermanno Casoli 1998 – 2007

## Premio Ermanno Casoli 1998 – 2007

The Premio Ermanno Casoli prize was instituted in 1998 by Gianna Pieralisi, wife of Ermanno Casoli, the founder of the Elica company – a world leader in the production of cooker hoods – together with her children Francesco and Cristina in order to honour and keep the memory of her late husband alive.

Ermanno Casoli (Fabriano, 1928 - 1978) was an innovative entrepreneur with an eclectic background who loved art and was an artist himself. As a painter, he used to sign his paintings with the futurist pseudonym Caserma (CASoli ERManno). The name of the company he founded was inspired by Futurism as well.

The Prize dedicated to Ermanno Casoli was initially conceived as a collective exhibition which a panel would pick and acquire artworks from in order

to include them in a contemporary art museum to be built in the Santa Lucia monumental complex, found in the municipality of Serra San Quirico.

The family wanted the museum to remedy the lack of institutions dedicated to contemporary art in the area, which Ermanno Casoli considered as fundamental for the growth of new generations.

The Prize has been ongoing for ten years, each with a specific exhibition characterised by a silver thread or macro-theme chosen by the various curators from time to time: *Pittura, Scultura, Grafica e incisione, Fotografia, Sacro e profano: dall'arte sacra al fumetto, Enter: invito al futuro, Comunità/Community, Abstraction: ordine e immaginazione, Welcome: Tech & Touch, Aria.*



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The **Museo Premio Ermanno Casoli 1998-2007** museum, which is inside the Santa Lucia Monumental Complex in Serra San Quirico, is divided into a series of large rooms hosting **forty artworks** in total, one for each of the forty artists who won the **first ten editions** of the **Premio Ermanno Casoli** prize. The chronological period encompassing the exhibition itinerary begins **with 1998**, the year Gianna Peralisi instituted the prize together with her children Francesco and Cristina in order to honour art-lover, artist and founder of the Elica company Ermanno Casoli, who had died in 1978, **and ends with 2007**, the year Fondazione Ermanno Casoli was founded.



Santa Lucia Monumental Complex. Serra San Quirico. Cloister. Ph: Michele Alberto Sereni

The entrance to the museum, which is characterised by a majestic barrel vault, hosts ***The Relay***, the large neon installation produced by **Patrick Tuttofuoco** in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Premio Ermanno Casoli prize.

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Patrick Tuttofuoco, *The Relay*, 2019. Installation View. Ph: Michele Alberto Sereni

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A staircase hosting the sculptures by **Ale Guzzetti**, which are placed inside four niches, leads to the main hall, namely the refectory of the former Sylvestrine monastery. Said hall hosts a large totem decorated with paintings, photos, etchings and plexiglass artworks, following the rationale typical of the Modern Age. A suggestive artwork by **Marco Lodola**, inspired by the sense of community, stands out.



Museo Premio Ermanno Casoli 1998 - 2007. Staircase with sculptures by Ale Guzzetti, *Tecnica curiosa Voice 2 and Voice 4B*, 2006. Installation View. Ph: Michele Alberto Sereni

The following room, which is smaller and more intimate, hosts the large tapestry by **Flavio Favelli**, which establishes a dialogue with the sculptures by Ghenti Tavanxhiu and Sandro Piermarini, followed by environments decorated with totems aimed at showcasing the original structures, which are very beautiful and suggestive.

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A video space is entirely dedicated a 20-minute documentary on **Ermanno Casoli**, entitled **ERMANNOCASOLI. Un ritratto**. This documentary, which was shot by Anton Giulio Onofri in 2010, shows the people who were closest to the entrepreneur from Le Marche (namely his wife, children, friends and first collaborators) tell stories and anecdotes about their life together.

