

A seguito degli ultimi due Congressi nel 2002 in Brasile e nel 2004 in Australia, siamo ora tornati sul Mediterraneo, il mare che ha assistito alle origini dell'arte musiva e che ora assiste alla nascita e allo sviluppo delle più moderne scuole e di gruppi di lavoro che si dedicano alla esecuzione di opere contemporanee e al restauro di quelle antiche.

In particolare la Macedonia, terra decisamente cara a chi ama il mosaico, ospiterà questo nuovo Congresso a cui già sono interessati i nostri associati dei paesi che sboccano nell'Adriatico, ma anche di paesi lontani oltreoceano.

Organizzatore dell'atteso evento è Bayram Gazanfer, maestro mosaicista nominato nel 2004 in Australia presidente del prossimo Congresso a Skopje, che ci attende nella sua terra, ricca di siti archeologici e reminescenze artistiche passate di comprovato valore ed interesse storico e culturale. Dopo gli studi presso l'Accademia di Belle Arti di Ravenna, Gazanfer ha operato e opera tutt'ora con sapienza e maestria all'interno della storia dell'arte contemporanea, creando mosaici innovativi dove la ricerca e lo studio della materia sono alla base del suo lavoro.

E' quindi auspicabile che la Macedonia, paese ricco di storia e tradizioni, faccia fiorire ulteriori momenti di studio e di ricerca sul mosaico e le sue tecniche applicative, con uno sguardo costante alla storia passata. Infatti durante queste eccezionali riunioni internazionali, la AIMC, che vanta associati di 42 paesi mondiali, si fa promotrice di notizie fondamentali sullo studio del mosaico e delle sue innumerevoli forme espressive.

Il mio augurio è che possiamo quindi ritrovarci sempre numerosi alle giornate di convegno organizzate dal 12 al 17 settembre 2006 a Skopje.

Isotta Fiorentini

After the last two AIMC Symposiums in Brazil in 2002 and in Australia in 2004, now we are back to the Mediterranean area, the sea that saw the origins of the art of mosaic and that now is the witness of the birth and development of the most modern schools and workshops, devoted to the execution of contemporary art works and to the restoration of the ancient ones.

In particular Macedonia, a very famous country for mosaics, will hold this new Symposium where many of our members all over the world are interested in being present.

Responsible for the event is Bayram Gazanfer, master mosaicist appointed in Australia in 2004 as the president of the next Symposium in Skopje. So he is waiting for us in his country, rich of archaeological sites of great historical value.

After his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ravenna, Gazanfer has worked and still works, creating innovative mosaics where the research and the study of the materials are the most relevant features of his work.

We hope that Macedonia, a country famous for its history and traditions, will develop the study and the research on mosaic and its techniques, with a special mention to the past. During these international meetings, AIMC, together with its members from 42 countries in the world, usually promotes new information and studies on mosaic and its innumerable expressions.

So I wish we can meet all together in Macedonia from the 12th to the 17th of September 2006.

Isotta Fiorentini

GAZANFER BAYRAM CURRICULUM VITAE

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Graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Belgrade in 1974. Finished the postgraduate studies at the same Academy at the Department of monumental painting. Specialised in fresco-painting and mosaic. Gained a scholarship from the Italian Government and completed specialist training in Ravenna. Spent two years working at the Department of mosaic at Accademia di Belle Arte in Ravenna (Italy).

He is working as a professor in the School of Fine Arts "Lazar Lichenoski" in Skopje. Founder of the mosaic department, within the famous plastic art colony in Strumica, which has been functioning for ten years now.

His works can be seen in numerous museums and are part of private collections in R. Macedonia, Italy, Turkey, Canada, USA, Australia, Bulgaria, Poland and many places in Former Yugoslavia.

He has taken part in numerous group exhibitions, both in Macedonia and abroad.

Many individual exhibitions in: Strumica, Bitola, Ohrid, Skopje. In December 1997 Gazanfer Bayram and Paolo Racagni, for the first time in Macedonia, organised an international exhibition of mosaics, named *Ravenna in Skopje*, at the Skopje City Museum in which they took part as well, presenting ten works each.

Author of about ten stage designs for plays and television shows. Took part in various art colonies in Strumica, Lesново (Macedonia), Denizli (Turkey), Mersin (Turkey), Smolen (Bulgaria), Orford (Canada), Srokovo (Poland) etc. His most prominent works are the following three projects - monumental mosaics: Gazanfer Bayram, together with Paolo Racagni, are the authors of "*The Bridge*" (mosaic, 1997), exhibited in The Macedonian National Theatre (MNT) in Skopje; four mosaics in the Conference Hall in the Parliament of the R. Macedonia (1999); "*The Flight of Icarus*" (mosaic, 2000), exhibited in the VIP salon at the airport "Petrovec" in Skopje.

In recognition of his many accomplishments in the field of art and culture, the artist was recently awarded the prestigious 11th of October Prize (2004) which is the highest civilian honor in the field of art and culture in the Republic of Macedonia

He is a honorable citizen of Strumica for his contributions in the development of art and international relationship.

At this moment he is a president of the next congress of AIMC. He will organize in 2006, in Macedonia, the next 10th International Congress of contemporary mosaic which take part every second year in the organization of the AIMC (Associazione Internazionale Mosaicisti Contemporanei) International Association of the Modern Mosaic in Ravenna (Italy).

Member of The DLUM (Macedonian Association of painters). Member of the AIMC (Associazione Internazionale Mosaicisti Contemporanei) International Association of the Modern Mosaic in Ravenna (Italy).

Member of the S.E.C. (Societe Europeenne de culture), European Association of Culture in Venice (Italy).