

Leone Tomasi

1903-1965

Italian sculptor

Tommasi was born in Pietrasanta, into a family of marble workers. Graduated from the local Art Institute, in 1922 he moved to Rome to attend the Academy of Fine Arts, where he earned the esteem of 1,010 × 1,385 and support of Angelo Zanelli, author of the sculptures of the Vittoriano. Feeling alien to the Roman environment, however, he moved to Milan, where in 1926 he graduated with Achille Alberti at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts.



Back in Pietrasanta, in 1927 he married Carolina Ferroni with whom he has four children. From this moment on, his life was divided between teaching at the "Stagio Stagi" Art Institute and working as a sculptor, often in collaboration with the numerous local workshops and artisans and making use of the foundry of his son Luigi.

In 1950 and 1954 he went to Argentina, first for the construction of the ten colossal statues for the Palazzo dell'Aiuto Sociale, in Buenos Aires, commissioned by Eva and Juan Peron, and later to design the megalithic project "Monumento al Descamisado", destined to become the mausoleum of Eva Peron. The monument, which would have measured 143 m in height, will never be completed due to the overthrow of the Peronian government.

Not a lover of worldliness, he lived voluntarily isolated, firmly determined to stay away from official art. Among the rare exhibition events in which he agrees to participate, the collective "Artisti Versiliesi in Seravezza" in 1936 and the "Mostra del Fiorino" at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence (1962 and 1965). It was in Florence in 1990 that a posthumous exhibition of the numerous plaster casts kept in the Pietrasanta Museum of Sketches was set up at the Academy of Drawing Arts.

Translated from:

<http://www.etrastudiotommasi.it/leone-tommasi/>