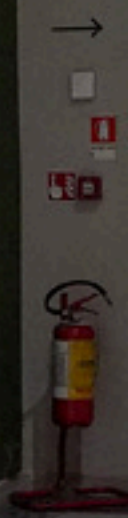


LIGABUE

THE ITALIAN
EXPRESSIONIST



LIGABUE




*“I know no one
believes me, but I
will go to the
greatest museums
in the world”*

Antonio Ligabue



The exhibition, integrating the latest research, is the first major international retrospective exhibition dedicated to Antonio Ligabue. It presents a journey through the art of LIGABUE, the visionary genius and his passionate research.

The exhibition project presents around **80 paintings, 20 sculptures and 20 drawings**, with audiovisual and photographic content, and is organised with the Augusto Agosta Tota Foundation for Antonio Ligabue, which has been studying the artist for over 40 years and holds one of the largest collections dedicated to Ligabue.





The exhibition emphasises Ligabue's great value in the sphere of Italian and European art and places him among the most significant exponents of that Primitive and Expressionism art movement from the great European painters such as Van Gogh, Gauguin and Rousseau.

A style characterised by vigorous brushstrokes and intense colours that manage to capture the observer, drawing him into a visceral and emotional world.

Artists with whom Ligabue also shares the themes of his paintings, which often depict wild animals, rural landscapes and intense self-portraits.

Ligabue's painting is characterised by his inner need to express himself, without any preconceptions or academic heritage. His pictorial dimension is primitive, without formalism of any kind.

He can define it as a raw and powerful type of art, which reflected his tormented interiority.

Ligabue worked mainly with oils on canvas, creating works that elude passion and creative urgency. His unconventional technique and lack of academic formality contributed to making his work unique and unmistakable.




The works come from Foundation and private collections, from the famous self-portraits to the 1953 *Head of a Tiger* and 1955 *Leopard*, from the 1954 *Motorcyclist* to the 1959 *Crossing of Siberia*; from the 1935 sculptures *Lion and Lioness* to the 1938 *Panther* and 1940 *Crouching Lioness* to the 1956 *Bust of a Gorilla*; from drawings with animal figures to the 1955 *Pencil Self-Portrait*.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Antonio Ligabue was born in Zurich in 1899, to an Italian mother, Elisabetta Costa, and an unknown father. From an early age, due to his mother's economic conditions, Antonio was placed in the care of a childless Swiss couple, considered by the artist to be his true family.

In 1901 his mother remarried Bonfiglio Laccabue, who recognized Antonio as her son by giving him her own surname. Despite this, the artist will change his surname to Ligabue, as he feels throughout his life a deep contempt for this man, held responsible for the suffocation deaths of his siblings and his own mother.

An abstract graphic at the bottom of the page depicts a hand with fingers spread, rendered in a light blue, semi-transparent style against the background.



His difficult and restless character led him to change schools numerous times, and by the age of 18 he began to manifest, in addition to health problems, a strong mental distress that erupted into violent attacks that led him to several hospitalizations in asylums, both in Switzerland and in Italy.

Ligabue was able to transport his inner demons onto the canvas, creating powerful works with an immediate visual impact. His subjects are often beasts caught in the moment before launching themselves onto prey or engaged in a ferocious fight with each other. Another frequent theme is the self-portrait, which is striking for the depth of the gaze and the accuracy of the details that describe it.

After the war the first artistic satisfactions arrived thanks to some exhibitions and to critics and gallery owners who began to take an interest in his works. Antonio Ligabue died in 1965, at the age of 65.



Past Venue

2005, Reggio Emilia, Palazzo Magnani

2008, Milano, Palazzo Reale

2018, Moscow, The State Central
Museum of Contemporary Russian
History

2021, Parma, Palazzo Tarasconi

2024, Torino, Palazzo della Promotrice

2024, Bologna, Palazzo Pallavicini

An abstract graphic consisting of several thick, white, brushstroke-like lines that sweep across the bottom of the page from left to right, creating a sense of movement and modernity.

VIDEO

[Click on the image to watch the video of the exhibition.](#)



SOME SHOTS OF THE EXHIBITION









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Small white label below the second portrait painting.



Small white label below the third portrait painting.



Small white label below the fourth portrait painting.



Small white label below the large horizontal painting.

AUTORITRATTI

Gli autoritratti realizzati da Antonio Ligabue nel corso della sua vita rappresentano, per dato numerico, una grande porzione della sua produzione. Queste opere consentono di immergersi in una sorta di diario visivo che testimonia e rievoca i disagi che l'artista viveva quotidianamente e al tempo stesso, le modalità con cui Ligabue tentava di "esorcizzare la propria "odissea terrena". Un dato di notevole importanza risiede nel posizionamento della figura dell'artista all'interno dei diversi autoritratti, posta centralmente e nel primo piano, risulta essere il fulcro emozionale della scena. Oltre ad una gamma cromatica brillante e sapientemente studiata, gli autoritratti di Ligabue si contraddistinguono per la quantità di simboli allegorici abilmente scelti, come la mosca o la farfalla bianca, in grado di rimarcare le costanti evoluzioni della sua ricerca artistica. Al contrario di ciò che erroneamente si potrebbe dedurre, le sofferenze vissute dall'artista non hanno pervaso unicamente in senso tragico la sua produzione, il genere dell'autoritratto, infatti, si è trasformato in un veicolo attraverso cui Ligabue ha percepito di poter legittimare la sua esistenza in quanto uomo e artista.



Autoretrato
1911
Olio su tela
18x14 cm



Autoretrato
1912
Olio su tela
24x18 cm



Autoretrato
1913
Olio su tela
36x28 cm



Autoretrato
1914
Olio su tela
36x28 cm



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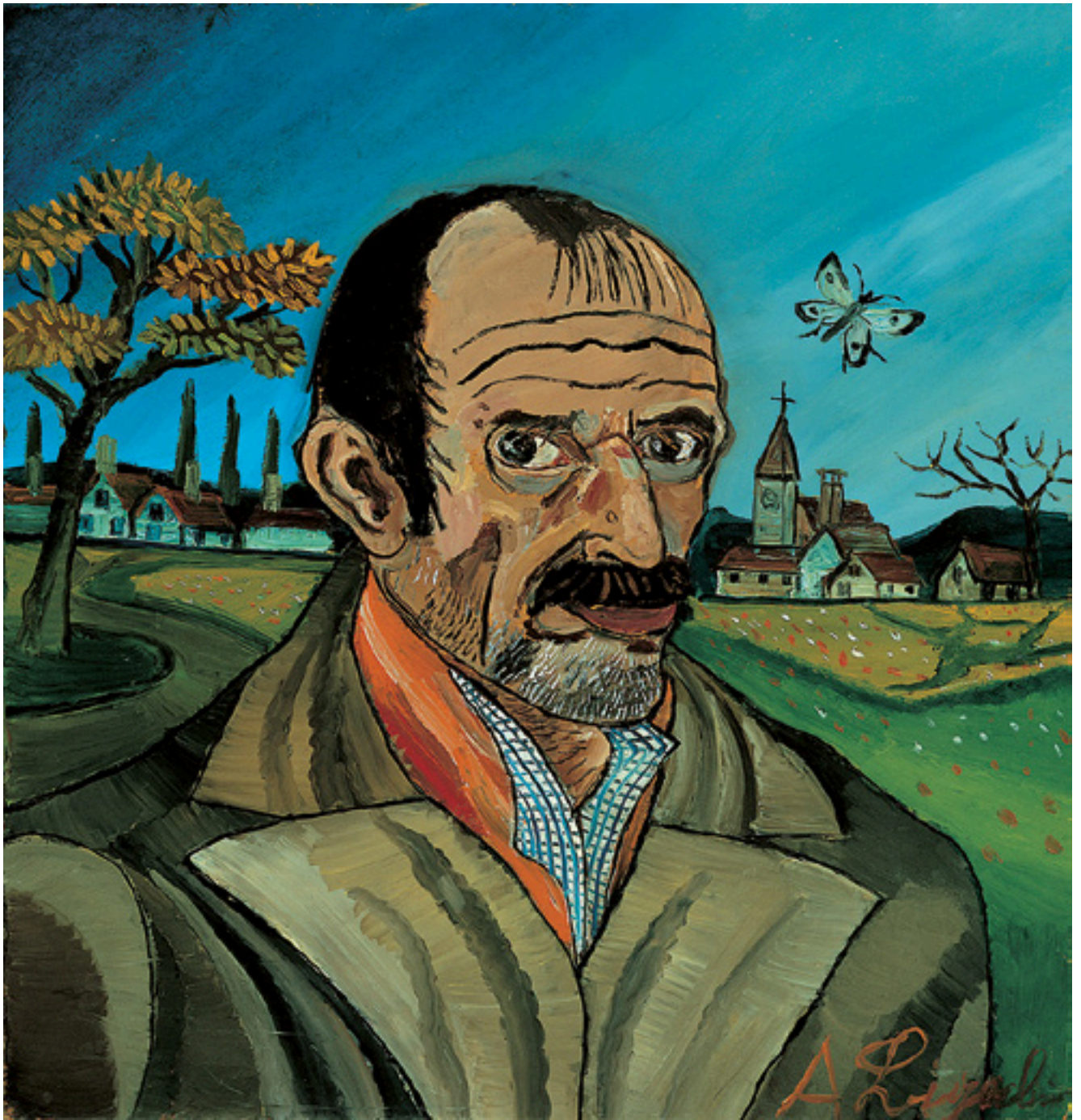
SOME ARTWORKS IN THE EXHIBITION













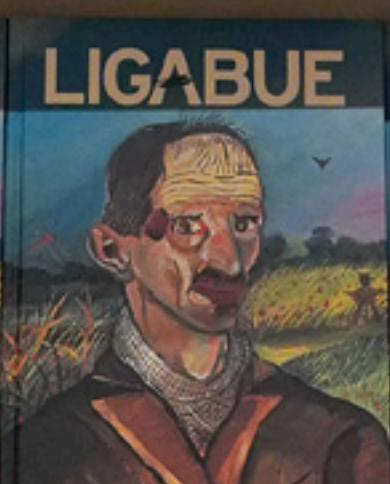
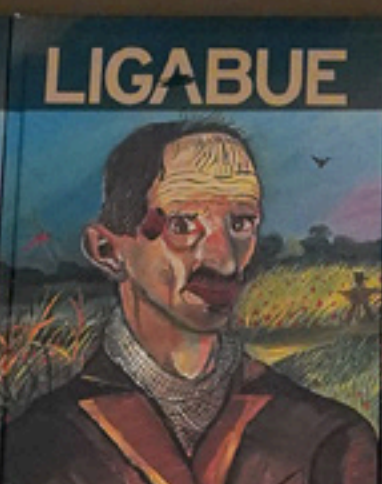
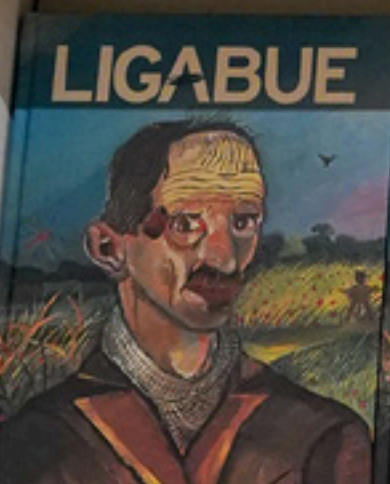
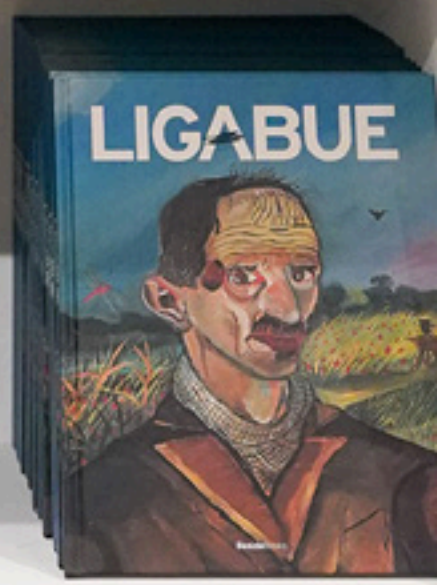
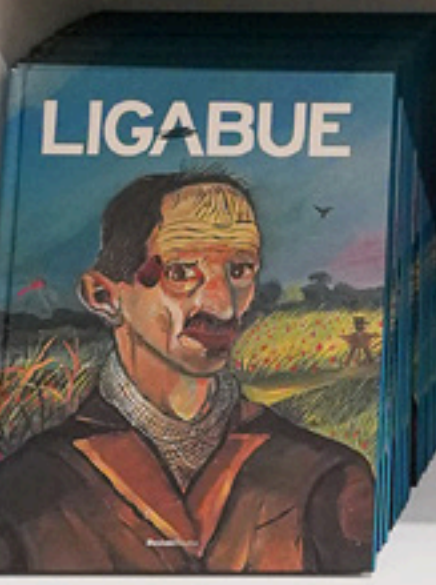
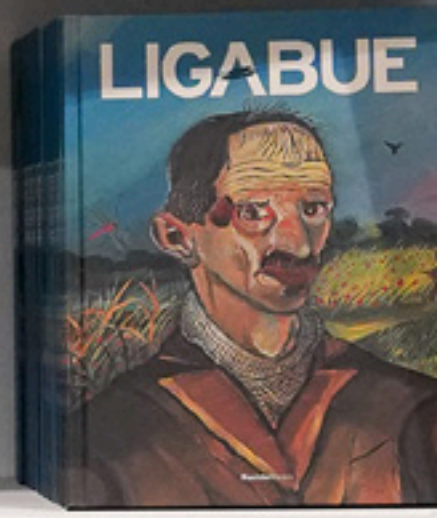
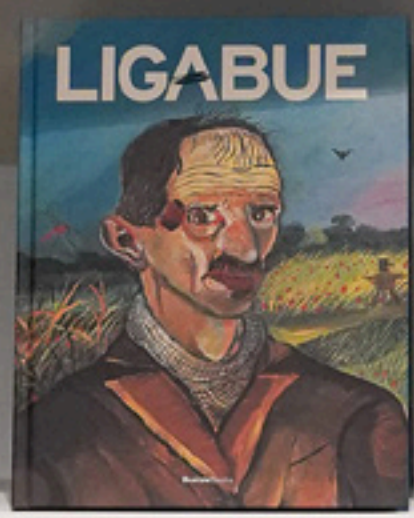
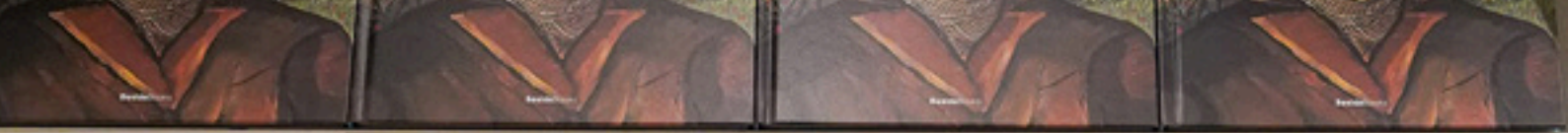






CATALOG





LIGABUE



DATA SHEET

Title: LIGABUE. The italian expressionist

Number of works: around 80 paintings, 5 to 15 sculptures, 10 to 20 drawings.

Videos in the exhibition: 3

Scenography: graphics following the chosen key visual and explanatory panels

Audio guide: already made and ready for listening

Catalog: published by BesideBooks

Exhibition communication materials:

- Key Visual already defined, to be applied to posters, postcards, leaflets, brochures, banners. graphic Reels and video Reels were made to be used for Digital communication, on social networks and for Meta sponsorships.
- photographic and video materials already made and usable
- possibility of being supported by a Press Office to compile press release, press conference, press launches, newsletter
- possibility of creating an ad website of the exhibition

2 COMPANIES



Fondazione Augusto Agosta Tota per Antonio Ligabue: the purpose of the Foundation is to promote art and culture with special focus on the figure and work of Antonio Ligabue, explored through scientific and rigorous criteria.



Beside Arts: is a publishing company specializing in the creation of creative, cultural, and entertainment content and projects. The projects are realized through exhibitions and editorial formats, with an innovative or classic approach depending on the target audience. It works with many important museums, publishers, and exhibition venues in Italy and Europe, developing and producing cultural content (always scientifically accurate) that appeals to a wide audience.