






Insights



What is contemporary art

Contemporary art is art made now or a short time ago.

In a contemporary art museum you can see and hear:

- paintings → 
- statues → 
- sculptures → 
- videos, films and photographs → 
- music and sounds. → 

Inside a contemporary art museum, you can also see:

- **installations.**

An installation is a work of art made from many things put together.

- **performances.**

When an artist gives a performance,
he or she makes movements or sounds with the body.

For example:

- walks or dances
- says and repeats words
- plays things.

Contemporary art works may seem strange and hard to understand.

Contemporary art is beautiful precisely because looking at it can remind you of things you know or emotions you have felt.

Sometimes, on the other hand, it makes you discover new things and stories that you had never thought of before, or makes you see an object you know used in a different way.

Who was Fausto Melotti

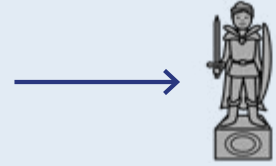


Melotti was an important **sculptor** born in Italy a long time ago, in 1901.
Melotti died a short time ago, in 1986.

A sculptor is a person who makes statues and sculptures.

Statues can represent people, animals, or objects.

A sculptor makes a statue by cutting pieces of stone or wood to give them the shape he wants.



Sculptures can represent animals, objects or geometric shapes.

The sculptor can make a sculpture in different ways, for example:

- by cutting stone
- by attaching pieces together
- by working with **ceramics**.



Ceramics is a material made of earth and water.

At first, ceramics is soft and you can give it the shape you want.

You can make different objects with ceramics.

If you put ceramic objects in a special oven they become hard.

Fausto Melotti studied sculpture at the **Brera Academy** in Milan.

The Brera Academy is a school where you also learn to draw and paint.

Fausto Melotti began working in Milan and lived here for many years.

When Fausto Melotti started working,
he made small sculptures and used:

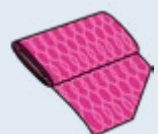
- terracotta



- metals such as iron and brass



- pieces of fabric.



After a while he started to make very large sculptures such as La Sequenza.

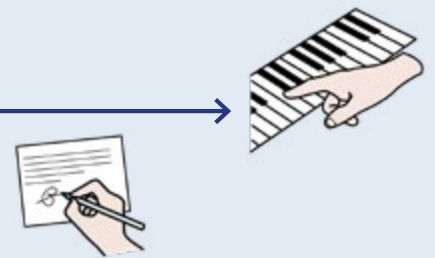


Fausto Melotti was a very intelligent and curious man.

He also liked to play the piano

and write **poems**.

A poem is a collection of very beautiful words.



A poem can talk about:

- emotions such as love, joy or sadness
- important things that happen to a person
- important people or people you love.

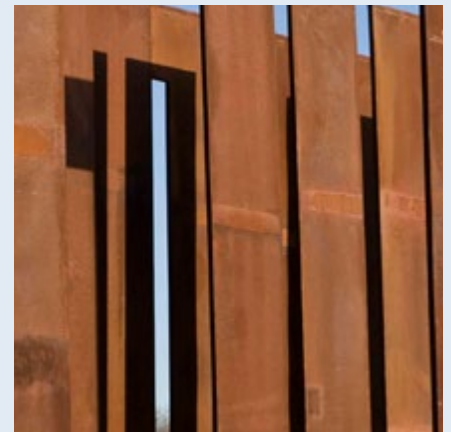
What is corten steel

Corten steel is a special metal made to be outdoor, in places like:

- gardens
- streets
- squares.

Corten steel is specially made to never spoil.

In fact, corten steel never gets damaged because it is covered by the red material you see.

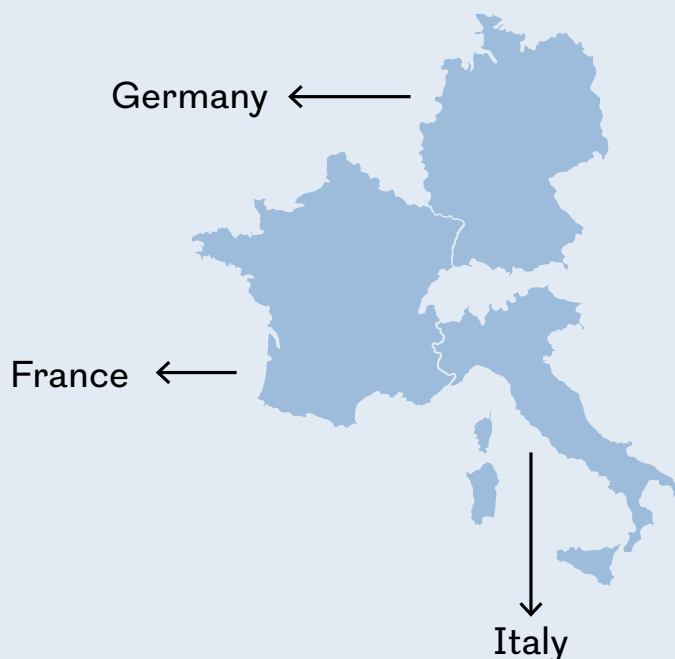


This material protects the steel from sun and rain.
Usually, instead, sun and rain ruin the metal.

Who is Anselm Kiefer



Anselm Kiefer is an important artist born in Germany, now living in France.



Anselm Kiefer was born some time ago, in 1945.

Second World War also ended in 1945.

Second World War is a great war in which many countries of the world such as Italy, Germany, France and America participated.

It is called the Second because a few years earlier there had been another great war called First World War.

During Second World War many bombs had fallen on the city of Anselm Kiefer.

These bombs had destroyed houses and buildings.

Anselm Kiefer often tells that when he was a child he used to play among the remains of the destroyed buildings in his city.



The memory of these things is very important to Anselm Kiefer.

In fact, in his artworks he wants to remember the stories of the people who lived through this ugly war.

For Anselm Kiefer, works of art are also important because they help people imagine and dream of beautiful things that are not yet there.

The construction of the Seven Heavenly Palaces modules

Anselm Kiefer built The Seven Heavenly Palaces right inside Pirelli HangarBicocca.

Each palace is made up of many floors called modules.

Anselm Kiefer used **reinforced concrete** to make each module.

Reinforced concrete is a very strong material that is used to build things that must last for a long time, such as bridges and buildings.

Before it becomes hard, reinforced concrete is liquid.

Anselm Kiefer put liquid concrete inside containers to make the modules.



These are containers.



Containers are needed
to carry lots of objects
all at once from one country to another.
The containers are very big.



When the concrete got hard,
Anselm Kiefer peeled the modules off the containers.
The colours that were on the containers
stuck to the concrete of the modules.

In fact, if you look at the Seven Heavenly Palaces you can see spots of colour.



The story of Noah's ark

In an ancient book of the Christian religion is written the story of Noah and Mount Ararat.

Noah was a good man who lived a very long time ago.

The story says that God was very angry with the people who lived on Earth because they were bad.

God had decided to punish the people with a great **flood**.

A flood is when it rains a lot.

However, God had decided to save the animals that lived on the Earth and Noah and his family because they were good.

God had told Noah to build an **ark** and put all kinds of animals on it.

The ark is a big boat.



The story goes that during the flood it had rained so much that the earth had become like a big sea.

Only Noah, his family and the animals were safe because they were on the ark.

When the flood was about to end,

the ark had stopped at the tip of a very high mountain.

This was Mount Ararat.

When Noah and his family got off the ark,

they resumed living as they did before the flood.

They built new houses and new cities.

Who is eL Seed



eL Seed is an important artist born in France short time ago, in 1981.

eL Seed is not the real name of this artist but is his **stage name**.

A stage name is the name an artist chooses to sign his or her works and make himself or herself known to people.

The artist chose this name because it unites two countries that are very important to him: **Tunisia** and **France**.



These countries are important to him because his family was born in Tunisia and went to live in France where he grew up.

In fact, **eL Seed** recalls:

- **The Cid, a French book**
- **al sayed, a word in Arabic that means The Man.**

Arabic is the language used by people who live:

- in some countries in Africa, such as Tunisia and Chad
- in some West Asian countries such as Syria and Saudi Arabia.

For eL Seed, Arabic is important because it is part of the **culture** of his family's country.

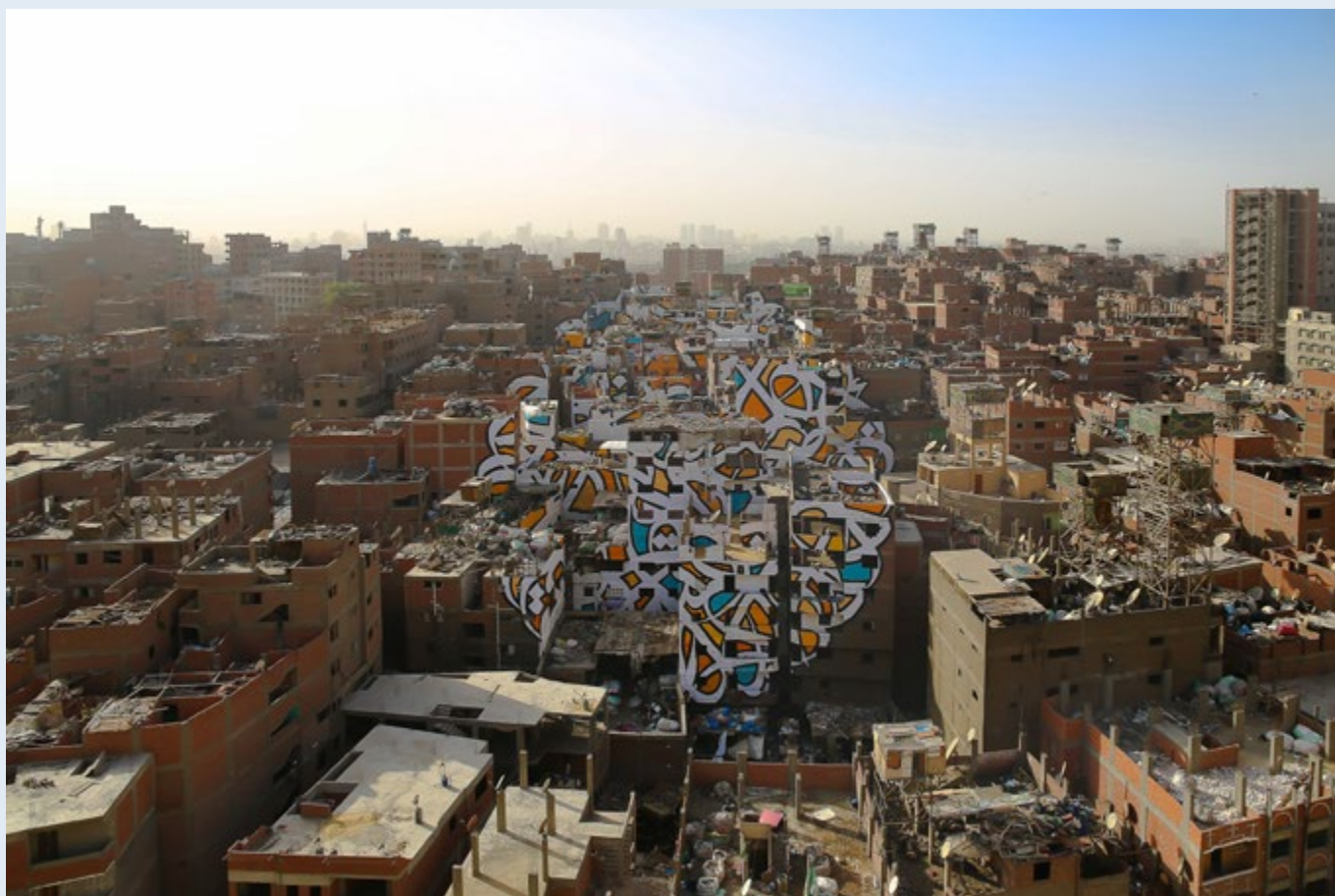
Culture is the total amount of all the things that a large group of people:

- does
- builds
- uses.

For example, the culture of a group of people is:

- the way people talk
- how they celebrate when there is a party
- the food they eat
- the works of art they make such as paintings and statues
- the shape of houses and buildings
- the way they make household objects and furniture
- the songs and stories
- the jewelry and precious objects.

eL Seed began painting words and sentences in Arabic on walls.
eL Seed paints these words
on the walls of houses and buildings in cities around the world.
eL Seed often paints in **neighbourhoods** that are not very wealthy.
A neighbourhood is a part of a city.
eL Seed's paintings make these buildings become works of art.



In this picture you see a very large painting
that eL Seed has done on many buildings in a city.
On each building he made a piece of painting with some words on it.
If you look at the buildings from a distance you see
that together they make one big painting.

When you see this symbol



it means that in this place
you find people who can help you.
They can help you understand artworks,
paintings, statues, houses, castles.

The non-profit association L'abilità
invented Museo per tutti.

The association L'abilità
is made up of a group of people
who take care of people with disabilities.

The association L'abilità
wants everyone to understand artworks.

Pirelli HangarBicocca
wants everyone to enter and see
the artworks.

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Pirelli HangarBicocca

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