

Events

UID Study Day

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The unexpected need for distancing that characterized 2020, deeply influencing the habits of individuals and society, also affected the scientific community of the Unione Italiana per il Disegno which, after 41 consecutive annual meetings, had to postpone to next year the ritual meeting that every year sees teachers and scholars in the disciplines of representation interact in a fruitful exchange of studies and experiences. While waiting to return to the possibility of an in-presence meeting and not willing to renounce to present in public and collective form the many initiatives carried out by the scientific society in the last year, a UID Study Day was organized, an opportunity for remote discussion aimed at celebrating the incessant activity of the members of a lively community such as that of the Drawing. Thus, at 9 a.m. on 18 September 2020, using the telematic link set up by the Padua University, the UID President, Francesca Fatta, started the Study Day, divided into three consequential parts.

The first part was symbolically introduced by the two academic groups responsible for the synergetic organisation of the scientific programme of the Study Day, through the joint greetings of Mario Docci, UID Honorary

President, and Luis Agustín, President of the organising committee of the XVIII International EGA – Expresión Gráfica Arquitectónica Congress. The title assigned to the seminar aimed to deepen the dynamic and constantly evolving role of Drawing through three keywords: *Drawing: languages, distances, technologies* was the theme within which the three scientific speeches of the Study Day were inserted. The introductory speech, given by Maurizio Ferraris (University of Torino), listed, specifying its philosophical value, the main “senses” that define Drawing, identifying five significant meanings: It is “figure” because it embodies an authentic form of thought, it is “writing” because it possesses the capacity for symbolic abstraction, it is “memory” because it acts as a support to memory but also allows the organisation of knowledge in a mnemotechnical sense, it is “scheme” because it synthesises the form of entities and objects, and finally it is “project” because it becomes the plan that guides human action. In the wake of the suggestions provided, a real duet began (inspired by the homonymous occasion in Perugia which in 2005 saw Gaspare De Fiore and Alfred Hohenegger as protagonists) in which the voices of Agostino De Rosa (Università IUAV di Venezia) and

José María Gentil Baldrich (Universidad de Sevilla) alternated. De Rosa’s speech, which ended with a dedication to Anna Sgrosso, woven a connection between language, starting from the comparison between the opposite semantic meanings that characterize Eastern and Western languages in the definition of the acts of seeing and feeling, distance, overcoming the geographical extension and demonstrating how the cave space in the Platonic myth reproduces the inside of everyone’s heart (Jan Saenredam, *Antrum Platonicum*, 1604), and technology, describing a dystopian but at the same time poetic future in which digital technological excess cannot replace the need for analogical meetings between men (Sion Sono, *The whispering star*, 2015). Gentil Baldrich’s speech, opened by a memory of Vito Cardone, was a reflection on the Spanish Expresión Gráfica Arquitectónica area, conducted through a critical synthesis of the results of the EGA congress (21-25 September 2020), from which emerges once again the central role that the representation of architecture, in the rich articulation of its languages, plays and will continue to play. The second part of the Study Day was dedicated to the presentation of the activities of the Unione Italiana per il

Fig. 1. Jan Saenredam, *Antrum Platonicum*, 1604.

Fig. 2. Sion Sono, *The whispering star*, 2015, frame.



Disegno: from the traditional annual events to the new initiatives organised in the last period. The attribution of the *Targhe Gaspare De Fiore 2020*, coordinated by the commission chaired by Mario Centofanti and composed of Edoardo Dotto and Fabrizio Gay, saw the mention of PhDs Raffaella De Marco, Marika Griffio, Martino Pavignano and Chiara Pietropaolo, and the awarding of PhDs Matteo Bigongiari, Veronica Riavis and Simona Scandurra. The prestigious award of the *Targa d'Oro UID* was given to professors Eduardo Carazo Lefort (Universidad de Valladolid) and Secondino Coppo (Politecnico di Torino).

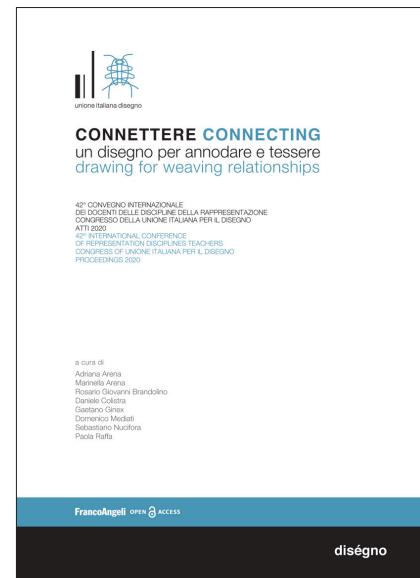
The programme continued with the presentation of the proceedings of the 42nd UID conference *Connecting: drawing for weaving relationships*, which is an important step from the editorial point of view, not only because for the first time it is configured as an open-access volume, published by Franco Angeli and aimed at guaranteeing free access to scientific products, but also because it inaugurates the new UID series *diségno* (whose graphic design, completely renewed, is coordinated with that of the homonymous journal of the scientific society) conceived as a further opportunity for the publication of research results, seminars and symposiums of national and international character organized within the framework of the activities promoted or sponsored by UID. The illustration of the contents of the book of proceedings was carried out by the scientific responsible of the two previous editions of the UID annual conference. In Rossella Salerno's speech, after some summary data on the essays presented and a reaffirmation of the topicality of the theme of connection, understood not only

as of the link between knowledge and disciplines but also as the ability to unite the local and global dimensions (all the more so at a time when physical distance can be cancelled by technology), the four topics of mythological inspiration were illustrated which the contributions proposed a reading of: *Prometheus* (theory and technique), *Metis* (the mutation of form), *Mnemosyne* (the construction of memory) and *Hermes* (the story of places and things). The reading of the contributions offered the opportunity for a general reflection on the urgency of the thematic reorganization of the scientific-disciplinary sectors, also in the light of the need to frame competences in the sectors defined by the European Research Council, in which the tools and methods of representation, although pervasive at an interdisciplinary level, do not seem to find a clear identification (and visibility). Paolo Belardi's speech, starting from the considerable variety and richness of themes and approaches emerging from the contributions presented in the proceedings, reaffirmed the central role of Drawing in contemporary scientific and artistic culture, which constitutes an unequalled potential of the disciplinary scientific field. In particular, two aspects that distinguish the discipline of Drawing, namely the importance it attributes to the recovery of manual skills and its multifaceted and transversal vocation, find emblematic synthesis in another mythological figure, *Hephaestus* (*Vulcan*), interpreted as artisan-artist-designer par excellence. In this sense, it seems physiological to add a new topic to the four already identified, which finds its philosophical reason in the urgent need to humanize the technique, which emerges especially

in some specific areas of application of the field (including BIM): only through the identification of a deep meaning the application of the technique can be fully placed in the most authentic sense of Drawing. Moreover, the future of the area appears increasingly oriented towards pervasive dissemination of skills in the most diverse scientific fields: a trend that is already evident and destined to be further consolidated.

The presentation of the volume was followed by the presentation of further initiatives organised within the activity of the scientific society, starting with the one entitled *#iorestoin-aula #iodisegnodacasa. Reflections on the didactics of drawing between direct and mediated communication*, born in March following the necessary redefinition of the teaching methods after the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, but which is proposed as an approach harbinger of further future potential. Sprouted in the wake of the reflections being elaborated by the UID Education Commission, it has become an instrument of investigation on the numerous meanings of the word "drawing" and has become an opportunity to carry out a mapping and a census, in an open and implementable way, of the distribution of the teachings of the representation area in the degree courses of Italian Universities. The dynamic map that collects the outcome of the initiative (subsequently presented in a widespread way during the seminar *Reflections on Didactics in the SSD ICAR/17 - Drawing* held on 30 October 2020) provides an overview in which it is possible to research in an interactive way, taking advantage of a further analysis tool aimed at understanding the evolution taking place in the disciplinary field, in

Fig. 3. Cover of the book of Proceedings of the 42nd UID Conference.



the sign of sharing knowledge and expanding the network of contacts. Finally, the results of the first edition of the *Premio UID Giovani Vito Cardone* were presented, an initiative addressed to the adherent members of the UID, which received wide participation of interdisciplinary groups belonging to different Universities, who were able to connect their skills and experiences in a fruitful exchange of knowledge. Among the nine proposals submitted, the International Commission chaired by Chiara Vernizzi and composed of Pilar Chías Navarro,

Carlos Montes Serrano and Caterina Palestini, conferred the award to the project *Know, communicate, connect: for a UID 3.0 App*, coordinated by Jessica Romor (Sapienza Università di Roma) and developed with Cristian Farinella and Lorena Greco (Sapienza Università di Roma), Raissa Garozzo (University of Catania) and Martino Pavignano (Politecnico di Torino). The project aims to create the prototype of an application conceived as a space of relationship and sharing in which UID members can connect their research activities but also know the

present and future events of interest to the scientific community. The *UID Study Day* had its natural epilogue with the annual Assembly of members, at the end of which the President launched the appointment in 2021 in the Stretto di Messina area for the *42nd International Conference of Representation Disciplines Teachers – Congress of the Unione Italiana per il Disegno*, considering the previous focuses as well as a fifth that relaunches and celebrates the theme of this Day: *Drawing: languages, distances, technologies*.

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