

Gigi Viciani

was born in Pavia in 1938. His childhood was spent dedicating every spare moment to his great passions of painting and music, so much that his mother, impressed by his talent, enrolled him in the prestigious School of Applied Art in Pavia. He was allowed to attend art lessons from a very young age, obtaining this dispensation thanks to the intercession of his primary school teacher, and he started design under the guidance of Masters Gino Testa and Pino Sacchi.

The sculptor Pino Sacchi, in the course of an interview released in 2013, remembered: "Viciani attended the Pavia School of Art from a very young age. He was very gifted for painting and sculpture and despite his young age I have always considered him the most talented and genial pupil among my students."

He has dedicated a significant part of his life to pop, rock and lyrical music (in the Sixties he recorded the Italian version of the Rolling Stones' success: "That's how strong my love is", later in life he had his debut as a tenor, in *La Traviata* (G. Verdi), in Brescia). His love for painting has always dominated and in 1973 he organized his first personal exhibition with the help and encouragement of his friend Maestro Renato Valdata.

He has exhibited in the most prestigious galleries in Italy and abroad, earning much appreciation from the public and critics alike. His last exhibitions were organized in the French Riviera and in Provence (Camaret, Orange, Aix and Provence and Mougins). Permanent exhibitions of his work are to be found in Antibes at the Gallery of the restaurant *Le Vieux Murs* and in Nice at the historical Hotel Negresco's Museum Hall. In this section his oval painting *Peonie Bianche* is exhibited alongside Salvador Dali's painting *Wailing Wall*.

His work is figurative and easy to be interpreted, in the rigorous style of the Pavian School: he lovingly depicts the truth in the objects of daily life and in glimpses of his beloved Pavia and of different landscapes all over the world. In recent years the classicism of his paintings is expressed in a lighter and more rarified style, as a result of an Impressionist influence.

Since April 2004, thanks to the invaluable assistance of his wife Giovanna and his daughters Alessandra and Simona, he has opened up his own *atelier* l'Arte 17 in Pavia (Arte 17, piazza Cavagneria 17, Pavia) where it is possible to see him at work and where he gives painting lessons, art courses and masters classes.

On December 9th, 2011 he was awarded the symbol of merit of San Siro for important artists with the following citation: "*The Maestro Gigi Viciani was artistically formed under the guidance of Maestri Gino Testa and Pino Sacchi, and during his brilliant career he has participated in many painting competitions in our country and exhibited his works in different galleries in Italy, Germany, France, England and in the United States. Now he works in his Art Gallery in Pavia, which has become a cultural point of reference for the city. Whilst being a multi-faceted artist, being amongst the best of musicians, figurative painting is at the centre of Viciani's activities; he has the rare ability to describe daily life and to give glimpses of our Pavia and is therefore a shining example of someone who knows how to make the rich artistic tradition of Pavia his very own*

