



Education Department Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art
UniCredit Group
Turin deaf people Institute

Ready the outcomes of the first *Experimental project* for accessibility of contemporary art to deaf people

Presentation and panel discussion Friday 6th November, 4 pm
Artissima 16 – Meeting Point

At Artissima 16, International Fair of Contemporary Art, the Education Department of Castello di Rivoli, UniCredit Group and Turin deaf people Institute will present the results of the first experimentation in Italy aimed to guarantee to the deaf people full and effective fruition of contemporary art. After the panel discussion, there will be a **guided tour to Artissima for deaf people** with Italian Sign Language translation, lead by the Education Department.

The project, which started in autumn 2007, reaches after two years a meaningful goal: the **publication of the outcomes of the linguistic research** with a selection of new signs created by the study group. The publication includes also methodological guidelines, and will be realised in Italian and English, considering the innovation represented by the project, on an international basis.

The group has been working for an important task: to identify the **specific vocabulary still missing in the Italian Sign Language**. The linguistic enrichment of the Italian Sign Language with the translation of the specific words is necessary if we wish that contemporary art becomes a shared heritage for deaf people. Final output of the research will be the publication of the **first Dictionary of contemporary art in Italian Sign Language**.

Together with the linguistic research, several experiences have been conducted in order to make contemporary art accessible to deaf people. So, the Education Department has proposed to these people different ways to live and experience the Museum of Contemporary Art, also thanks to the support of the Piemonte Region – Cultural Heritage Direction, with the project *Abil-mente*. **Experimental guided tours** have been organised for varied groups of deaf people, many of whom were visiting for the first time a museum of contemporary art on these occasions. The excitement of discovery created the conditions for a lasting relationship with lots of deaf people who started to visit constantly Castello di Rivoli, following the invitations to participate to the Museum's exhibitions openings. A deaf informer was involved as a mediator: specifically trained on the exhibitions' contents, he accompanied the groups (following the **peer education** principles). Moreover, at Castello di Rivoli took place a specific program of **Weekend'arte for children and adults**, with translation in Italian Sign Language. The *Weekend'arte* are proposals conceived for the public of every age, which include a guided tour and a workshop. A large public of families, children, adults and teens participated enthusiastically to the activities.

Information: Education Department Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Brunella Manzardo Tel. 011 95.65.213 b.manzardo@castellodirivoli.org; UniCredit – Press office cultural events, Viviana Vestrucci Viviana.vestrucci@unicreditgroup.eu; Catterina Seia UniCredit & Art project manager unicreditandart@unicreditgroup.eu