

ABITARE

SINCE 1961

ARCHITECTURE

DESIGN

HABITAT

RESEARCH

GALLERY

VIDEO

[Abitare](#) > [Events](#) > [Telephone entertainment](#)

SUBSCRIBE

Get Abitare delivered direct to your door or browse it on your computer, smartphone, or tablet (app available for Android and iOS). [Click here to see all print and digital offers.](#)

EVENTS



Telephone entertainment

8 December 2017 – 18 January 2018



VISUAL ARTS

10 January 2018



Telephone entertainment

Matteo Zambelli

In Washington DC's Cross MacKenzie gallery the Florentine architect Andrea Ponsi shows off thousands of faces drawn on Post-its. While he chats on the phone



Brugellis talks about the Radicals



Lyon on the psychoanalyst's couch

17 November 2017 - 17 June 2018



Landscape as clothing



Italian talents at Maison & Objet

Andrea Ponsi is a Florentine architect who dedicates equal attention to architecture, design, painting, writing and teaching. It's no coincidence that in 1974 he received his architecture degree in Florence with Leonardo Savioli (the centenary of whose birth is this year), master of an approach that crosses over disciplinary borders. Ponsi's activities as a painter are spread out across different areas of research. The first is that of the scores-notes, a form of automatic writing organised into musical scores that hybridise imaginary graphemes, mythical symbols, fields of colour and flashes of architecture to create an emotional diary capable of condensing memories and feelings without recourse to words. Another area of research is dedicated to perceptive maps and urban landscapes, or rather subjective explorations within the fabric of cities told through a combination of site plans, elevations, cross-sections, perspectives (the architect's tools for representation) with landscape painter-like watercolours. The result of these, apart from paintings, are two books that feature as protagonists both in pictures and in words the cities of Florence and San Francisco. Then there's the research dedicated to analogous cities, in which Ponsi shows through sketches and drawings how using architectural references and the cities of the past it's possible to conceive of a new architecture or a new urban layout using the tool of the analogy, theorised by the Florentine author in two educational books that reveal his teacher's soul. The Cross MacKenzie gallery in Washington DC displays Ponsi's last area of experimentation, that of faces drawn on Post-its.



When Andrea talks on the phone he has the compulsive habit of sketching (with a pencil, a pen or whatever he has to hand) completely invented faces that have nothing to do with the person at the other end of the line. He can't give a reason for this impulse, the only explanation that he hazards, in the form of a question, is that it could have something to do with the typically Italian tendency (masterfully explored by Bruno Munari in the *Dizionario dei gesti degli italiani*, or Dictionary of Italian Gestures) of gesticulating with our hands when speaking. Once the call finished Andrea Ponsi would throw away the Post-its, but one day an assistant (who had been picking them out of the bin) lined them all up so he could see them next to each other, surprising Ponsi with the human menagerie that he had drawn over time.



Ever since then (this happened in the 1990's) he began to collect them and today he's sketched nearly 20,000 faces: an entire city. A city with one particularity: all the faces are male because, he explains, "I wouldn't want to draw an angry, monstrous, silly or grotesque woman". Starting on 8 December this city of men will be on display in Washington DC.





[GO TO THE GALLERY](#)

Face it!

Curated by Rebecca Cross

Cross MacKenzie Gallery, 1675 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC

8 December 2017 – 18 January 2018

TAG [illustrations](#) | [Washington DC](#)

SHARE



< PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Brugellis talks about the Radicals

LEAVE A REPLY

Name

Surname

Email

Website

Comment

SEND

ABITARE

Founded in 1961 by Piera Peroni Abitare magazine has crossed the history of costume, architecture and design, international, following in its pages the

SERVIZI

Publicità

Abbonamenti

I NOSTRI SITI

Corriere della Sera

La Gazzetta dello Sport

evolution of our ways of life and how we inhabit places

Newsletter



Living

Io Donna

Amica

Style

Dove Viaggi

DoveClub

Oggi

Free - l'arte di vivere senza glutine

Quimamme

Io e il mio bambino



Copyright 2017 | **RCS Mediagroup S.p.A.** Via Rizzoli 8 - 20132 Milano C.F. - P.I.V.A. n. 12086540155
