



Constellation Studios - 2055 'O' Street

**LINCOLN - NE**

# METROPOLIS

**October 21 - December 24 / 2016**



CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE DELLA GRAFICA DI VENEZIA





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## METROPOLIS

Is a collective book which has been born within the Venetian culture. As well as the Venice 2013 International Art Biennale suggested the theme of “The Encyclopedic Palace”, our Metropolis aims at being meant as the universality of the existence, as the global world translated into graphic artworks.

Three hundred and three artists from different parts of the world have answered portraying their personal outlook on the world. They have marked out their thought on a square sheet of drawing paper the size of 20 cm, finding the most suitable form in the publishing tradition of the Centro Internazionale della Grafica of Venice.

The works, printed and folded into a leporello style, form a sixty-metre long sequence that regroups in a precious cube.

Printed in only three copies, Metropolis will tour the world on travelling exhibitions, to end up its journey in a public art institution.

***Metropolis*** is a handmade book venture in a spectrum of print-making processed by artists from around the world, including two from Constellation Studios. The theme speaks to the broad contemporary urban experience and extends to the idea of the network of communication possible today.

The idea for this collaboration came from Berlin-based artist Andreas Kramer who prints at Centro Internazionale della Grafica (CIG) in Venice where *Metropolis* was realized under the guidance of master bookmaking Silvano Gosparini and where the Renaissance legacy of traditional Venetian book publishing continues.

Among the 303 interpretations of this theme, the reader is destined to discover reflections of one's own meandering thoughts about 'metropolis'. The leoporella (accordion) construction enhances this stream-of-consciousness effect as it stretches fully to 215 feet. Ideas circling forwards and backwards through compositional and iconic connections and diversions make an impression underlined by the haptic qualities of the media where ink makes sculptural lines on paper.

What lingers is a metropolis of the mind, a crazy-creative vitality mirroring the variability and vicissitudes of existence, and inspiring a continuing interaction, and a visually challenging mix.

Participants come from: Australia, Japan, Brazil, USA, Italy, Germany, Russia, Poland, Hungary, UK, France, Spain, Tunisia, Canada. The edition of three has been circulating on exhibition in Italy, Germany, USA and most recently in Sao Paolo, Brazil, most recently at the Katzen Rotunda Gallery, American University, Washington, DC. This is the premier exhibition in the mid-west.

*Karen Kunc*



# UTOPIA OF THE METROPOLIS

*Michele Emmer*

Metropolis, impossible not to think of Fritz Lang's famous 1927 silent film. The big city, the rigid rules, an absurd and constrained life, a life that inevitably led to rebellion.

A city full of skyscrapers, with underground foundations that are home to the workers and the disenfranchised.

Lang seemingly used New York, with her spectacular, luminous, tall buildings as a model.

Metropolis, the mega city, the enormous buildings, the profound social inequalities.

The word metropolis derives from two ancient Greek, then Latin, words, *μήτηρ*, *mētēr* which mean mother and *πόλις*, *pólis* which means city.

It was the town from which people leave, the mother town to leave to look for another town and another country. With time it would become the seat of the ecclesiastic authority, the catholic church. The mother town that we leave and where we want to return. And one understands, one perceives, that Venice has always been a great mother town, to be left and to be returned to. A town that expands throughout the waters, a mother town which builds ports and fortresses and palaces along the coasts of the seas known all too well to Venetians, built to allow Venetians secure leavings and coming backs to the motherland. Ships and goods, sailors and soldiers, continuously moving, in and out. All of them want to come back, they want to bring back to the mother town all the goods and wealth and stories collected in remote corners of the world, back to their Metropolis. And tides mark this leaving and coming back, endlessly, their waters reflecting the wealth, the palaces, the important churches.

Venice is a Metropolis, it became a metropolis for culture, an obligatory choice, when all the other riches arriving with the ships, was not coming anymore.

And Venetians began not to illude themselves anymore on the possible renaissance of the town. And the mother town with its churches, with her paintings and frescos, with her palaces chose the way to survival for when the far away riches would not come back any more.

The mother town of the arts, the metropolis of the arts in her continuous transformations, re-generation, in an eternal metamorphosis. And the seed of the metropolis of the arts has penetrated deeply. Even if the fast tourism of today does not perceive it, even if the great traditions of the arts, of handicraft, of the so many occupations, are disappearing because the persons who have the skills are disappearing, still the art, the idea of art resists and above all is regenerating itself.

And Metropolis is a town forever re-forming, in continuous evolution, in continuous metamorphosis. The fascination of the art of the metamorphic town, continues, along with its magic.

Artists from all over the world take part in the true initiation rites to art embedded in the production of the fantastic books of the Atelier Venezia Viva. The topic of the mother city, of the Metropolis, that brings all together in a large, solid, deeply human embrace, could not be absent. From the number of places from where artists take up the opportunity of participating in the making of an art book, just for the joy of art itself, in the city of Venice, it becomes clear that being part of a Metropolis is not a question of numbers alone. The great city is the result of technique, energy, color, waters, objects, each one of which is both essential and ephemeral. The Metropolis can be foreseen between the pages of the books, through the foggy waters, in the hotness of the summer.

It is impossible not to come back, it is impossible not to take part in this eternal to and fro, in this eternal recovery, this eternal reconstruction. Without the Mother Town it would not be possible. It was necessary to have a city suspended on waters to have everyone feel linked to a story, to a project. Only in Venice, with her churches, with her palazzi. Works of humankind, who has always tried to save and beautify the Mother Town, the aquatic city, the Metropolis of art. And of knowledge.

All this is certainly a utopia. An unrealizable dream that contrasts with the real world, the one which is beyond the dream city of Venice. A dream which will always be infringed and which we will attempt to generate, generate again, in an endless metamorphosis, made of images, techniques, waters, colors, signs, ideas, because ideas are where Metropolis come from. A Utopia of thought, a utopia without which life would have a meaning?

Venice is a Metropolis constructed on a Utopia.

What could be more lasting towards eternity?

*Michele Emmer, 1 ottobre 2014*

# **VENICE - October 18, 2014**

## **Venezia Viva Gallery, Palazzo Minelli**



*A moment of the inauguration on the outside of Palazzo Minelli.*





*The French artist Marie Malherbe, one of the 303 Metropolis artists, invites us to follow the world itinerary of the book.*



*Andreas Kramer presents the book.*

# **BERLIN - October 25, 2014**

## **Kunstfabrik hb55, Berlin**



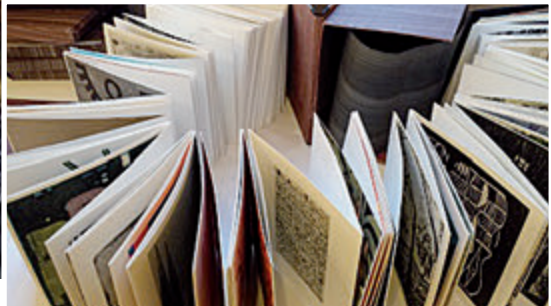
*A lively gathering in the old margarine factory kunstfabrik.*

# **BERLIN - March 16, 2015**

**Druckwerkstatt im kulturwerk bbk,  
Berlin GmbH**



*The Kunstlerbhaus Bethanien, an old hospital preserved from demolition, now is an internationally known space for presentation of contemporary art.*



*Moments of the exhibit.*



# **PALERMO - May 10, 2015**

## **Salone della Biblioteca dell'Albergo delle Povere**



*During the Week of Culture extending over the whole city, Metropolis was exhibited in the library of the Albergo delle Povere.*



*Two of the 303 artists, Romeo Segnan and Liliana Conti Cammarata, presented the book.*

**HALLE - Germany**  
**May 27, 2015**  
**Galerie 5ünf Sinne**



*Exterior and interior of the Five Senses gallery.*

# MUNICH - Germany

July 1, 2015

Kulturhaus Milbertshofen



*Various moments of the opening and displaying of the book.*



# ROME - September 19, 2015

## Associazione Internazionale Incisori



*Metropolis was exhibited in Rome at the Associazione Internazionale Incisori.*



*Alba Balestra, the President of the Association, illustrates to visitors the process of creating the book.*

# Washington, DC USA

## October 31, 2015

### American University

### Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen Arts Center



*The Katzen Arts Center houses the Department of Art, Department of Performing Arts, and the American University Museum. The center provides state-of-the-art instructional, exhibition, and performance space for all the arts disciplines.*



*Walterina Zanellati and Claudia Vess, two of the 303 artists, present the book in Washington, DC.*





*Two moments of the exhibition.*



*The woman on the right went through the display three times.*

# **Chevy Chase, MD USA**

## **November 15, 2015**

### **Friendship Heights Village Center**



*Romeo Segnan and his friend Thérèse Arcole exchange views on the exhibit.*



*Another stop of the book in its American journey.*

# Campos do Jordao, SÃO PAULO

## April 2, 2016

### Casa de Xilogravura



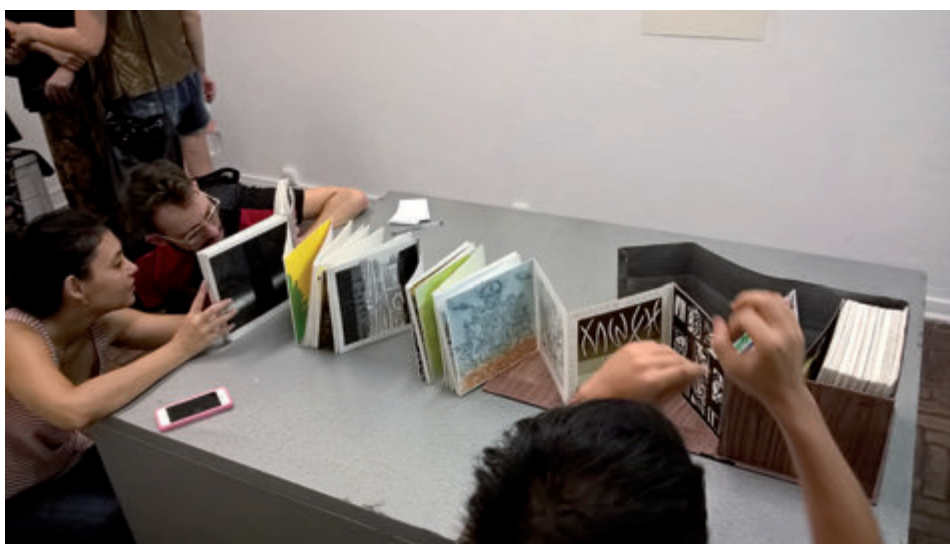
*Berndt Hendl, Junko Hoshino and Prof. Antonio Costella with his wife.*



*One of the original books was donated to the Casa de Xilogravura and will be housed in the Museum.*



**SÃO PAULO - Brazil**  
**April 8, 2016**  
**Atelier Piratininga**



*Moments of the exhibit.*

# PORTO ALEGRE - Brazil

April 19, 2016

Museu do Trabalho



*Moments of the exhibition*

# SÃO PAULO - Brazil

## June 25, 2016

**Hemeroteca della Biblioteca  
Mário de Andrade**



*Moments of the exhibit.*



# **BREMA - Germany**

## **August 7, 2016**

**Galerie am schwarzen meer und raum 2**



*Exterior and interior of the Gallery*

# VENICE - Biblioteca Marciana

## January 2017

The extraordinary book with its 303 artists  
will be opened and displayed in the  
Sansovino Hall of the Marciana Library  
together with the precious art collections of the  
Centro Internazionale della Grafica.



The **Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana** (**National Library of St Mark's**) is a library and Renaissance building in Venice; it is one of the earliest surviving public manuscript depositories in the country, holding one of the greatest classical texts collections in the world.



# Individual artists books

The long sequential collective work of art METROPOLIS gave birth to idea of realising individual artists books printed in twelve copies each.

The series of artist books will follow the collective book in its travels around the world and will be exposed in the galleries.



**Luisa Asteriti** - "*Volto Veneziano*" - Experimental etching.  
Poem by Diego Valeri.



**Walterina Zanellati** - "*El gato y la noche*" - Etching / aquatint.  
Poem by Elias Garcia Benavides.



**Massimo Lomasto** - "*Milano*" - Aquatint on two copper plates.  
Text by the artist.



**Micaela Sarain** - "*Gioco Metropolitano*" - Stencil printing.  
Text by F. W. Nietzsche.



**Gabriella Giuriato** - "*Metropolis*" - Experimental techniques.  
Text by Edward Goldsmith.



**Bernd Hendl** - "*Metropolis - Der Turm zu Babel*" - Engraving on several plates.  
Text in German: (vers.1Mosè 11,1,9 ).



**Andreas Kramer** - "*Metropolis*" - Woodcut polychrome.  
Author's text (German language).



**Romeo Segnan** - "*Baltimore Clipper*" - Multi-colored woodcut.  
Text by the artist.



**Stefano Grasselli** - "*Visione sul Mondo*" - Etching.  
Artist explanatory text.



**Christine Cummings** - "*Metroscopic*" - Digital techniques.  
Artist explanatory text.



**Soha Ben Slama** - "*Les femmes de mon pays*" - Woodcut.  
Arabic poetry: Essghaier WLED Ahmed.



**Junko Hoshino** - "*Universo*" - Woodcut with a Baren.  
Saying by poet Giovanni Pascoli.





**Giuseppe Denti** - "*Caos e Metropolis*" - Woodcut of three matrices.  
Texts by Charles Baudelaire (bilingual).



**Walter Morando** - "*Il porto*" - Watercolor etching technique.  
Poetry of Milena Milani.



**Alba Balestra** - "*I colori della città*" - Engraving in three colors.  
Poem by Joyce Lussu.



**Monica Martin** - "*Silenzi*" - Experimental techniques.  
Author's poetry.



**Gianna Regina Mazzoli** - "*Inizio di vita*" - Mixed technique, etching.  
Poetry by Nicoletta D'Alesio



**Nicola Sene** - "*Nero laguna*" - Engraving in mixed media.  
Luciano Menetto poetry.



**Alix Manchet** - "*La nature ne produit rien en vain*" - Woodcut.  
Text by the artist.



**Isabelle Lavergne** - "*Città desiderate*" - Etching / aquatint.  
Text from "*Invisible Cities*" by Italo Calvino.



**Paola Pupillo** - "*Roma*" - Photo etching.  
Song "Roma" from the musical comedy *Rugantino*.





CONCURRENT WITH ***Metropolis***: An exhibit of Artists' books and folios on the theme of ***Invisible Cities***.

**Artists respond to the concept from a novel by Italian writer** Italo Calvino, *Le città invisibili*, published in Italy in 1972. In Calvino's story Marco Polo reports on cities across the empire that he purportedly has visited, to the emperor Kublia Khan. Organized in a mathematical structure, Calvino's descriptions are fantastical, of dream-like cities all named after women. Following each eleven descriptions, the two men discuss ideas brought forward by the tales such as notions of human nature and linguistics.

Artists from across the USA and international artist join to respond to ***Metropolis*** with a new project ***Invisible Cities***. Over 150 artists have contributed a folio page to construct a new leporello book to be produced at Constellation Studios. Others have made their own artist book on this theme.



This edition was printed  
on the occasion of the presentation  
of Metropolis in Lincoln, NE  
by the Centro Internazionale della Grafica  
in the month of September 2016  
in Venice





Amor del Libro



VENEZIA VIVA



ATELIER APERTO



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