

Biography: Cesare Lucchini

1941

On July 10, Cesare Lucchini was born as the third child of Alessandro Lucchini, Director of Arsenale Militare Bellinzona, and Alice Soldini in Bellinzona.

1956–1961

Attended Scuola Cantonale di Commercio in Bellinzona. Alongside classes at the mathematical and mercantile oriented school he was engrossed by painting. He was influenced in his early style and artistic forms by Paul Cézanne's advice to Émile Bernard to use cylinders, spheres, and cones as guidelines in art and the study of nature.

1959

He organized a school excursion to Milan because he was personally interested in visiting the first large exhibition after the war mounting the work of Amedeo Modigliani at Palazzo Reale.

1961

After graduating from school he gained his mother's support for his decision to study painting, even though she would have preferred him to choose a career with a dependable income. In October 1961 he went to Milan and studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera.

1963

Without his knowledge, his mother wrote a letter to Giorgio Morandi, whom Cesare had mentioned to her as a leading contemporary artist. On February 28, Morandi replied that he could not take on the great responsibility of advising her son to continue or break off his studies.

1964

Lucchini spent three days going through Documenta III in Kassel. At the Venice Biennial, Lucchini was confronted by the pop art of Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Jim Dine, and Claes Oldenburg. He was fascinated by a television interview with Alberto Giacometti, containing also footage of this artist at work.

1965

He graduated from the academy in Brera. He wrote his dissertation on Nicolas de Staël.

1966

Lucchini worked in two studios: In the city center of Milan and in Ticino. He executed the Mozziconi series (Cigarette Butts).

1967

Lucchini studied especially American art and the figurative painting of Arshile Gorky, Willem de Kooning, and Richard Diebenkorn. Other artists he was interested in are Pablo Picasso, Francis Bacon, and Willy Guggenheim.

1970

In February, Cesare Lucchini and Mara Keller married in Lugarno. Lucchini encounters the paintings of Emil Schumacher in Milan.

1973 – 1980

Interni series (Interiors).

1980–1985

Studio series.

1986

He paints the first pictures addressing the figure of a child with a drum. At the same time Lucchini works on non-representational compositions.

1989

In April, Lucchini travelled together with Stephan Spicher to New York. He planned to stay there for a year. He was especially interested in Jean-Michel Basquiat's painting and Keith Haring's graffiti. The American way of life and the violence in the city made him change his mind, leading him to pack his bags and return already during the second week of his stay there. After quitting his studio in Milan in November, Lucchini alternated between working for two months in his Ticinese studio in Bruzella and two months in Dusseldorf – and subsequently Cologne – until 2012.

1989 – 2011

Quasi una testa series (Almost a Head).

1991

Lucchini enrolled in a course in Como taught by Emil Schumacher as guest professor. Two years later, Lucchini, together with Pierre Casè, director of the Pinacoteca comunale – Casa Rusca in Locarno, visited Schumacher in Hagen. In the fall of 1994 Schumacher mounted an exhibition at Casa Rusca.

1992/93

Large-scale solo exhibitions at the Pinacoteca comunale – Casa Rusca, Locarno, and at the Musée d'art et d'histoire, Neuchâtel. Showing were works from 1982 to 1991.

1998

Group exhibition together with Paolo Bellini, Pierre Casè, Rolf Iseli, and Stephan Spicher at the State Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg as well as at the Manège in Moscow.

1998–2000

Quasi crocifissione series (Almost a Crucifixion). Recurs to the subject of the cross from 1986.

Since 2003

Quel che rimane series (What Remains).

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2005

Lucchini moved into his spacious studio in Lugarno, Pregassona. He created the series *Qualcosa si muove* (Something is Moving), with variations of a figure in motion in front of a two-dimensional, abstract head (Quasi una testa).

Since 2007

Began with the series *Bambino soldato* (Child Soldier). After almost 20 years Lucchini again took up the subject of a child.

2008/09

Large solo exhibition at Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz and at the Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugarno, with works from 2001 to 2008.

Since 2011

La caduta series (The Fall).

2012

Il giorno della memoria series (Remembrance Day).

2015

Lucchini visited the Italian island Lampedusa together with Vito Robbiani. They got in touch with filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi, who won the Golden Bear in 2016 for his documentary on the boat refugees crossing the Mediterranean. Since 2010 Lucchini has been executing paintings that engage with this subject.