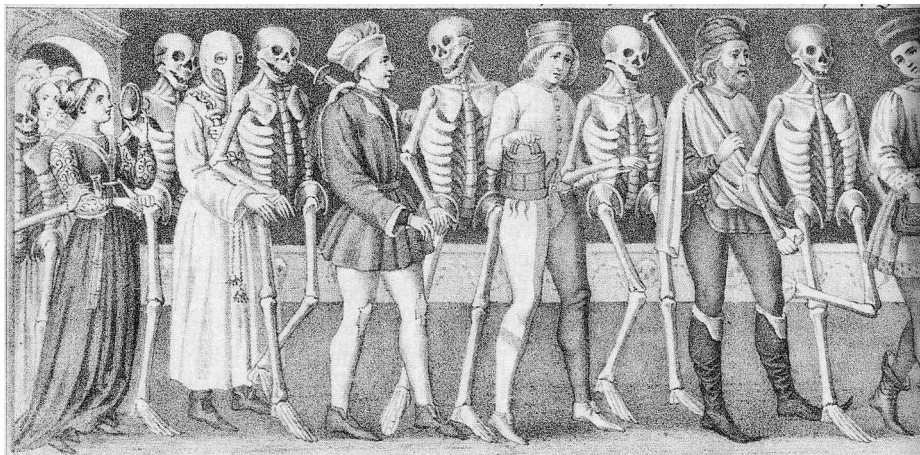


LE TAROT-ISTITUTO GRAF

*present*

I m a g e s o f t h e  
D a n c e o f D e a t h

I n w e s t e r n C u l t u r e f r o m t h e  
M i d d l e A g e s t o X X c e n t u r y



**CURATORS**

FRANCO CARDINI - ANDREA VITALI  
GUGLIELMO INVERNIZZI - GIORDANO BERTI

## HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

Every representation of the Dance of Death, is used to stage a very animated dance, in which, there are people from various social classes, in the company of Death. This Theme, that was represented on the walls of churches, cloisters and monasteries, took shape and developed between the XIV and the XVI centuries, mainly after a series of contacts with Death resulting from disasters, wars and epidemics, that left entire populations of the continent shocked and powerless.

The Dance of Death, was brought to life in the reflection on a tangible and egalitarian futility of existence. It also represented in tragic parades, it was painted and engraved. The citizens path, royal palaces, sacred vaults, pages of books made it popular with every class. The church diffused images with the help of the press to encourage the faithful to reflection.

Through the centuries, a wealth of valuable artwork has survived, as a witness to the reputation obtained from the "dance of dead". Famous publishers as French Guyot Marchand (late fifteenth), artists like Hans Holbein the younger and the painter of Henry VIII, engravers as Wenceslaus Hollar, just to name a few, have left us xylographs and etchings of the highest honour that testify to the centrality of death in clerical environments and lay courts. The numerous prints, which are showing this exhibition together with an accurate didactic apparatus, documents in detail its richness and the variety of the evolution of the issue during the centuries, showing the different characteristics depending on the cultural environment backgrounds from which they came.

The exhibition is organised by Prof. Franco Cardini, professor of Medieval History at the University of Florence, by the iconologist Andrea Vitali and Guglielmo Invernizzi, organiser of the Collection. In addition, the exhibition boasts the contribution of historical and scientific Association "Le Tarot", and is endowed with a volume published by Nodolibri, (of which you can implement a version in English, French, German or otherwise) with contributions from distinguished medievalists such as Professor. Alberto Tenenti, former teacher at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences in Paris.

The "memento mori" of the monk Savonarola is begun again thanks to an exhibition that is extraordinary for the wealth of iconographic documentation, which testifies to the extent and maturity with which the Renaissance civilization has addressed the relationship between earthly life and death.

## WORKS ON DISPLAY

The exhibition consists of 600 original prints made between 1450 and 1950 from the Invernizzi Como Collection, the most important and extensive private collection on the subject

## SCENOGRAPHIES

Representations in wood, life size and hand painted of Death with the characters of the Dance of the Death.

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

<i>Marco Bertozzi</i>	Philosophy of History , University of Ferrara
<i>Franco Cardini</i>	Medieval History , University of Florence
<i>Cecilia Gatto-Trocchi</i>	Former Professor of Cultural Antropology, La Sapienza University, Rome
<i>Massimo Oldoni</i>	Medieval Latin Literature, La Sapienza University, Rome
<i>Guglielmo Invernizzi</i>	Expert on graphic Art
<i>Giordano Berti</i>	Essayist, President Istituto Graf
<i>Andrea Vitali</i>	Iconologist, President of Association “Le Tarot”

## CATALOGUE

*Images of the Dance of Death in Western culture from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century* (Edited by William Invernizzi and Nicoletta Della Casa, NodoLibri, Como 1995. Format 21 x 24 cm.128 - pp.138 with illustrations in black and white and 20 colour illustrations) . The work can be translated for overseas in any language You prefer.

### **Texts by**

Maria Canella, Franco Cardini, Nicoletta Della Casa, Mariateresa Lietti, Massimo Oldoni, Giacomo Scandella, Vittorio Sozzi, Alberto Tenenti.

### **Edited by**

Nicoletta Della Casa, Guglielmo Invernizzi.

## Images

The following images are in the work:

1. A map of the Dance of the Death in Europe
2. Complete illustration of Dance of Death in Basel
3. La Chaise-Dieu; Como; Hans Holbein; Lucerne
4. Choice of illustrations for the Dance of Death
5. The Cemetery of the Innocents, *Paris*
6. The British Dance of Death of Van Assen
7. The English Dance of Death of Th. Rowlandson
8. Le Socialisme, nouvelle Danse des Morts of Alfred Rethel
9. Une Danse Macabre of Edmond Bille
10. The big Dance of the Death of Eveli Bulbena Estrany
11. Engravings of different artists