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EDITOR NOTE: Downloadable photos are available here:
<http://photos.shcommunications.org/GalleryThumbnails.aspx?gallery=140970>

Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco Presents

***Doppio Sogno dell'Arte (Doublefold Dream of Art)* Exhibition Dec. 11-Jan. 9**

Graphic Works by Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana, Francesco Clemente, Sam Francis, George Segal, Alexander Calder and Others from 2RC Editions in Rome

San Francisco—November 17, 2008--Works on paper by leading Italian, American and British modern and contemporary artists Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana, Francesco Clemente, Sam Francis, George Segal, Alexander Calder and others are featured in the traveling exhibit *Doppio Sogno Dell'Arte (Doublefold Dream of Art)* opening in San Francisco December 11 through January 9. The exhibition, which originated in Milan at the Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro curated by Achille Bonito Oliva, will be on view at the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco Gallery, 425 Washington Street, Suite 200, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free of charge.

The exhibition explores in artworks the history of the famous Roman print studio 2RC which has been an international epicenter of graphic arts tradition and innovation for more than fifty years. Studio 2RC has published limited-edition masterworks by a significant cadre of modern and contemporary artists and proprietors Valter and Eleonora Rossi are constantly on the lookout for new techniques that will do justice to the artists and their styles. While focusing on the history of this extraordinary print studio, the exhibition traces the international history of graphic design from the 1970s to the present. On display will be engravings by Alberto Burri (known for his signature style, delicate and blood-stained), project plans by Henry Moore, Sam Francis's explosions of color, George Segal's casts, and Basaldella's dreamlike geometries. This exhibition sets Italian artists side-by-side with their American and English counterparts thus bringing points of contact and lyrical affinities to light.

Artists featured in the exhibition include Afro Basaldella, Pierre Alechinsky, Alberto Burri, Alexander Calder, Francesco Clemente, Enzo Cucchi, Lucio Fontana, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Adolph Gottlieb, Nancy Graves, Giacomo Manzu, Henry Moore, Louise Nevelson, Victor Pasmore, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Giuseppe Santomaso, George Segal, Graham Sutherland, Giulio Turcato and Victor Vasarely.

Master printer Valter Rossi sums up the workshop's activity in this way: "Our objective is to merge the process of execution of a print with the creative act--a moment that is neither at the beginning nor the end--but that permeates the entire creative process, so that the finished image is also a work of art in terms of its technical content."

During the 1970's, when more and more painters were becoming attracted by the qualities of etching and aquatint (the "heart and soul" of 2RC Editions), the workshop's facilities and the technical perfection of its impressive array of editions began to gain the international respect of artists and critics alike. Without the 2RC print shop, which works in the time-honored European tradition of intaglio printing, a number of artists would not have found the urge to express themselves in etching and aquatint.

Today, 2RC Editions proudly treasures a "dossier" of 52 artists and a portfolio of more than 1200 prints, many of which can be considered milestones in the history of contemporary printmaking. A glance at 2RC's list reveals that it offers a comprehensive view of the complexity of modern art. There are the masters of the international avant-garde: Sonia Delaunay, Man Ray, Herbert Bayer, Lucio Fontana, Adolf Gottlieb, Alexander Calder, Henry Moore and Louise Nevelson. There is also a generous sample from the European and American art scene, including Alechinsky, Bacon, Chillida, Soulages, Pasmore, Pepper, Penck, Sam Francis, Frankenthaler, Segal, Graves and Schnabel. There are also representatives of the entire gamut of trends in Italian contemporary art, from Burri, Capogrossi, Adami and Turcato to the new generations of Cucchi and Clemente.

About the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco

The Istituto Italiano di Cultura of San Francisco promotes Italian language, culture and the best of Italy in its assigned consular area (Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands) by disseminating information about Italy, offering scholarships, and presenting cultural events including art exhibitions, film screenings, concerts, lectures, book presentations, poetry readings, round table discussions and other events. Its goal is to foster mutual understanding and cultural cooperation between Italy and the United States. The Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco presents a rotating exhibition schedule, video and book libraries containing Italian books, cds, dvds, journals and newspapers; and information and documentation on cultural matters in Italy. The Institute is open to the public Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for more information, call 415-788-7142 or visit www.iicsanfrancisco.esteri.it.

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CALENDAR EDITOR PLEASE LIST:

Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco Presents

Doppio Sogno dell'Arte: An Exhibition of Works on Paper from 2RC Editions in Rome

WHEN: December 11, 2008-January 9, 2009, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

WHERE: Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco Gallery, 425 Washington Street, Suite 200, San Francisco

EXHIBITION: Works on paper by leading Italian, American and British modern and contemporary artists Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana, Francesco Clemente, Sam Francis, George Segal, Alexander Calder and others from the Roman Print Studio 2RC

ADMISSION: Free

INFORMATION: Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco 415-788-7142 or

www.iicsanfrancisco.esteri.it

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UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

Tra la via Emilia e il West (1/15 - 2/6) is a collection of photographs by Paolo Simonazzi that show the "Americanization" of an Italian region (Emilia Romagna)

Voyager (2/11 - 3/6) is a photographic exhibit by Silvio Wolf, organized as "a metaphorical journey enveloping the full range of photographic capabilities, weaving in and out of representation and abstraction."

Enzo Mari (3/12 - 4/30) is a collection of design objects by artist Enzo Mari.

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