

Factsheet

Exhibition description:

The exhibition *Fellini: Circus of Light* is an introduction to works of the film director Federico Fellini (1930 – 1993) that unveils critical aspects of the Italian maestro's universe. Known as one of the most influential filmmakers of 20th century European cinema, Fellini is celebrated for his signature flair that combines fantasy and flamboyance within the social realities of post-World War II Italy. His approach to humanism is based on his personal experience, blended with fictional narratives.

ADM Gallery 1 features an immersive environment based on one of Fellini's closest themes – the circus. Dedicated to Fellini's film protagonists, the gallery highlights the many characters in Fellini's world, drawn from his classics such as *La Strada* (1954), *8½* (1963), *Juliet of the Spirits* (1965), *Satyricon* (1969), *The Clowns* (1971), *Amarcord* (1973), *Fellini's Casanova* (1976), *Intervista* (1987) among others.

ADM Gallery 2 showcases more than 50 works from the collection of the Fellini Foundation for the Cinema, comprising of photographs, movie posters and original drawings that document Fellini's vast oeuvre. Like pentimenti seen in fading frescos that reveal traces of earlier work processes, this presentation is designed as a space that symbolises a labyrinth in light and shadow, and suggests a symbiosis between the grotesque and the sublime, and the sacred and the profane.

Fellini: Circus of Light is the collective result of many artists from ADM, practising in the disciplines of fashion, graphic, product, sound and visual effects design, as well as film and puppetry, working together to uncover the complexity of one of most compelling auteurs of the 20th century

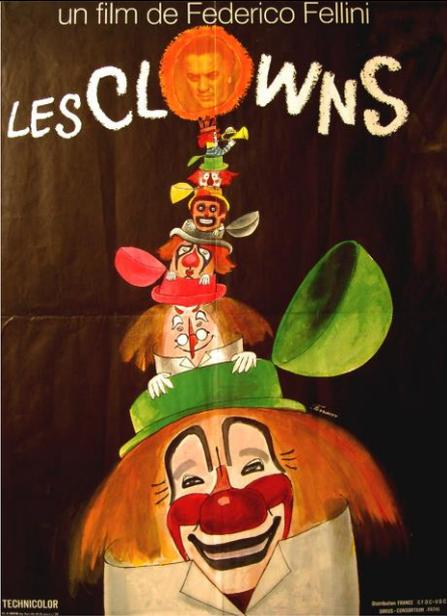
Event: Fellini: Circus of Light
Date: 12 November 2015 – 13 February 2016
Time: Mon to Fri: 10am – 5pm
Sat: 12 – 5pm
(*Closed on Sundays, public holidays and term holidays)

Venue: School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) gallery
Nanyang Technological University
81 Nanyang Drive
Singapore 637458

Admission is free.

Exhibition Highlights

	Description	Image
1	<p>Gelsomina (Giuletta Masina)</p> <p><i>La Strada</i>, 1954, Photograph, 18 x 24 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	
2	<p>Photograph of Fellini with the camera, Mitchell</p> <p><i>Amarcord</i>, 1973, Photograph, 18 x 24 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	
3	<p>Preliminary Drawing fro the movie <i>Il Casanova di Fellini</i></p> <p><i>Il Casanova di Fellini</i>, 1974 – 1975, Drawing, Facimile, 9 x 12 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Fellini</i></p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Belgian Poster of The Clowns</p> <p><i>The Clowns</i>, 1971, Film Poster, 60 x 80 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Fellini at the scene of the Rex on the set of <i>Amarcord</i></p> <p><i>Amarcord</i>, 1973, Photograph by Pier Luigi Praturlon, 18 x 24 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Scene from the Carnival of Venice in Cinecitta</p> <p><i>Il Casanova</i>, 1976, Photograph, 21 x 30 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	

<p>7</p>	<p>The Minotaur and the clap in <i>Satyricon</i></p> <p><i>Satyricon</i>, 1969, Photograph by Pier Luigi Praturlon, 18 x 24 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Fellini on <i>Intervista's</i> set in Cinecittà</p> <p><i>Intervista</i>, 1987, Photograph, 21 x 30 cm Fellini Foundation for the Cinema Collection</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Original clap from the film <i>Casanova</i> 1976</p>	

Quotes

Professor Vibeke Sorensen, Chair of the School of Art, Design and Media, said, "*Fellini: Circus of Light* is an homage testament to the Italian maestro's body of work and its lasting influence on new generations of filmmakers. It shows how the universe of Fellini - primarily seen on film – is being translated into other modes of representation that deepen the understanding of his works. The creative efforts from ADM complements the collection of the Fellini Foundation for Cinema, and extend the experience of the world of Fellini."

His Excellency **Mr Thomas Kupfer, Ambassador of Switzerland in Singapore,** said, "I'm very pleased of the collaboration between the Singapore institution and the Swiss Fellini foundation. I see a great potential to further develop this cultural relationship between our two countries. Switzerland has a thriving arts scene reflecting its multilingual and multicultural identity in the heart of Europe. Finally, as a big admirer of Italian maestro and filmmaker Fellini, I am very excited about this Fellini exhibition here in Singapore, based on the triangular cooperation Singapore - Italy - Switzerland."

His Excellency **Mr Paolo Crudele, Ambassador of Italy in Singapore,** said, "This exhibition will be Southeast Asia's first ever tribute to Fellini's love and fascination for the circus arts that will showcase the profound influence that the 'circus life' had on Fellini's moviemaking. When we bring up the subject of Federico Fellini, we cannot overestimate the legacy, impact and influence that this great Italian filmmaker had on international cinema, and will continue to hold for future generations of film students and young filmmakers all over the world."

Mr Federico Grandesso, European Union & Asia Representative of the Fellini Foundation for the Cinema, said, "Visiting every year the most important film festivals in the world like Cannes and Venice, we can see that the poetic voice of the Italian maestro is still influencing both experienced and young movie directors; I hope this exhibition will inspire new upcoming cinema talents in Singapore and in Asia."

Curatorial notes

Heitor Capuzzo, Professor
School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University

The exhibition *Fellini: Circus of Light* brings some clues to Fellini's universe. Conceived as an introduction to Fellini's films, the exhibition is divided into two segments. In the internal ADM Gallery there are approximately 50 pieces documenting Fellini's work. Among the exhibits are still images from his original films, daily life in film studios, along with posters, objects, and original drawings by Fellini. The selections work like *pentimenti*, fading frescos, surrounded by sounds, light and music as indexes for his creative process. The space in which they are presented is conceived as a labyrinth, alternating light and shadow, with images suggesting symbiosis between the grotesque and the sublime, the

sacred and the profane. In the external ADM Gallery there is an immersive environment dedicated to Fellini's characters. The frozen characters are wandering the sky above the circus arena, looking for the maestro. This exhibition is the collective result of a number of creative artists from School of Art, Design and Media, NTU: puppeteers, sound designers, visual effects supervisors, graphic artists, product designers, webmasters, filmmakers and fashion designers, introducing the complexity of the filmic works of one of the major artists of the 20th century. The curator from the Fellini Foundation for the Cinema was responsible for the selection and framing of the original materials, and the curator from the School of Art, Design and Media, NTU, was responsible for conceptualising the overall design of the exhibition.

Stéphane Marti, President
Fellini Foundation for the Cinema

When a circus makes a stop in a city, the big top seems to occupy the world in such an arena of dreams. The circus becomes this concentric circle without limits where everyone finds his or her childhood. Animals seem to speak with the people and the artists can fly over our heads. The circus is one of the last refuges of our enchantment, and the clown the High Priest of that wonderland. The clown expresses in full light the dark side of man. He transcends human stupidity in childlike style because his laugh is absolute. The clown is a circus in the circus. To understand the affinity Fellini has to the circus, we need to examine his creative way of shooting - for the Maestro, a way of life. Fellini did not simply make his movies with technicians; instead he assembled a 'troupe' of artists – screenwriters (Tullio Pinelli, Ennio Flaiano, Bernardino Zapponi, Tonino Guerra and Gianfranco Angelucci); actors (Marcello Mastroianni, Giulietta Masina); set designers (Italo Tomassi, Piero Gherardi); a cinematographer (Giuseppe Rotunno); and lastly the musical genius whose career was not confined to the movies, Nino Rota – keeping this strange staff around him as a circus director. Thanks to this long partnership of great artists and strong craftsmen the work of Fellini have entered into our collective memory. Let us cross into this magic cinema circus to hear Fellini speaking: "the clowns are the ambassadors of my vocation. [...] I believe in a cinema which can recreate even the sea in studio. My light is not the one that the sun can give." Certainly this exhibition represents in world premiere the best access to this extraordinary world.

About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the colleges of Engineering, Business, Science, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and its Interdisciplinary Graduate School. It has a new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, set up jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N) and the Institute on Asian Consumer Insight (ACI).

A fast-growing university with an international outlook, NTU is putting its global stamp on Five Peaks of Excellence: Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare, New Media, New Silk Road, and Innovation Asia.

The University's main Yunnan Garden campus has been named one of the Top 15 Most Beautiful in the World. NTU also has a campus in Novena, Singapore's medical district.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About the Fellini Foundation

The Fellini Foundation for the Cinema established 2001 in Sion, owns the largest collection in the world related to Federico Fellini and thousand other directors. These 15,000 documents, including drawings, photographs, scripts, letters, posters, artifacts, costumes, production stuff and press releases, were presented by the Fellini Foundation in 50 exhibitions and events in Paris (Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume), Rome (Macro), Venice (Palazzo Benzon), Milan (Gallery Cartiere Vannucci), Madrid and Barcelona (la Caixa Centres), Moscow (House photo), New York (Center548), Toronto, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo (Instituto Moreira Salles), in Switzerland, Lausanne (Musée de l'Elysée) and Sion where the foundation is based and has its cultural center. The Fellini Foundation has edited 25 publications including two books and monographs published by Gallimard in Paris. The Fellini Foundation established a cultural network in Switzerland and around the world between different partners sharing its cultural purposes. This project was presented to several international institutions, including the European Centre of Culture (CEC) in Geneva which supports our activities. This network of partners is far beyond the field of cinema and also relates to the art. Two partnerships have been concluded in 2012 with the Ludwig Museum Koblenz and Deutsch Museum, museum for Modern and Contemporary Art in Belmont-sur-Lausanne, which offers one of the best exhibition spaces in Switzerland. Finally, through these partnerships with the Cinémathèque Suisse, the Musée

de l'Elysée, the Cinémathèque de France, the Historical Archives of cinema in Rome, Archives cinema of Cinemazero cultural center in Pordenone, la Maison d'Ailleurs in Yverdon/Switzerland, the Loubeau Brothers' Collection in Paris, Fellini Foundation can also rely on more than his own collection to produce exhibitions about cinema.