

Carlo Pedretti (1928-2018) was Professor Emeritus of Italian Art History at the University of California in Los Angeles, where he also held the Chair of Leonardo Studies. Since 2013, he moved permanently to Italy in the Villa di Castel Vitoni in Lamporecchio, headquarters of The Rossana and Carlo Foundation, which he directed up until his **death**. He published sixty books and more than five-hundred essays, articles and exhibition catalogues in various languages on the many aspects of his specialization. He was a member of the Permanent Commission for the National Edition of Manuscripts and Drawings by Leonardo da Vinci. The honours received in Italy and abroad include the Gold Medal for Culture conferred by the President of the Italian Republic in 1972, and in the same year the Congressional Citation, which is the highest recognition from the Government of the United States of America. He is also Honorary Citizen of the cities of Arezzo (2002), Vinci (2008), Romorantin, France (2010), Florence (2010), Lamporecchio (2011) and Pennabilli (2015). and the title of Doctor *honoris causa* from three Italian universities, Ferrara (1992), Urbino (1998), Milan (Cattolica, 1999), and one from the university of Caen, France (2003).

Professor Pedretti's contribution on the knowledge of Leonardo's manuscripts and drawings has capital importance. The direct study of the originals enables him to carry out the life-long task of reassembling Leonardo's papers according to their original and chronological order. Hence his pioneering and prophetic work was the catalogue of 1957 of the fragments of Leonardo drawings at Windsor come from the Codex Atlanticus at the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan. The outcome of this approach is the monumental edition of Leonardo drawings at Windsor (1968-1969), followed by the edition of the drawings by Leonardo and his circle in Florence (1985), Turin (1990) and in the American collections (1993). His critical and facsimile editions of Leonardo's texts include the *Codex Hammer* (1987), the *Book on Painting* (1995), and also the *Codex Arundel* (1998). Journalism, the activity with which Carlo Pedretti started his career over fifty years ago (he was a regular contributor to the *Corriere della Sera*, the major Italian newspaper, and *L'Osservatore Romano*, the prestigious Vatican newspaper), has led him to involvement in television and cinema as well, as author, actor and consultant to producers and directors. He loved to remember his collaboration with his friend Piero Angela for the production of a series of episodes dedicated to Leonardo for the *Superquarck* broadcast. He was honorary member of the Accademia degli Euteleti in San Miniato al Tedesco and of the

Accademia Raffaello in Urbino. Recently he was nominated honorary member of the Accademia Nazionale di Scienze Lettere ed Arti in Modena.

Carlo Pedretti's publications are listed and commented upon in two books, as follows:

Joyce Pellerano Ludmer, *Carlo Pedretti. A Bibliography of his Work on Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance [1944-1984]*. Compiled by Joyce Pellerano Ludmer, The Elmer Belt Library of Vinciana. Foreword by Kenneth Clark. In Celebration of His Twenty-Five Years with The University of California, Los Angeles, 1984.

Nathalie Guttman, *Carlo Pedretti's Publications 1985-1995, with an Aftermath & a Supplement [1946-1998]*, Florence, 1998.

A third publication, that includes the publication between 1999 up until today and edited by Margherita Melani, is to be added.

See also the Festschrift dedicated to him:

'Tutte le opere non son per istancarmi'. Raccolta di scritti per i settant'anni di Carlo Pedretti. A cura di Fabio Frosini, Rome, Edizioni Associate, 1998.

The Brill Series of Leonardo Studies: *1. Carlo Pedretti. Seventy years of his Leonardo Scholarship (1944-2014. A festschrift edited by Constance Moffatt & Sara Tagliagamba, Leiden and Boston, Brill, 2014.*