

Report

□ Cover image

TITLE: “Articolo 9” (Article 9)
TECHNIQUE: Mixed media on canvas, 200 x 200 cm
DATE: 2011
PAINTER: Angelo Savarese
PAINTER WEBSITE: www.angelosavarese.com

Italian Constitution:

Art. 9. The Republic promotes the development of culture and scientific and technical research. It safeguards the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the Nation.

Angelo Savarese creates a great square - a closed form, paradigm of the surface (length for height) - on a field of forest green, inclusive of another, off-centre white square, in turn interrupted by a small, decentred red square, synthesizing and signifying national unity, emphasized by the graphical handwriting on the pictorial material, a text that reproduces article 9 of the Italian Constitution. (*Enzo Papa*)

The work represents the colours of the Italian flag, in three concentric squares. That in the centre, of more modest dimensions, is the colour red, the colour of the blood of our martyrs who died for freedom, those who have sacrificed their lives over the years to make Italy a free, united country. A country that in the year the work was created was able to celebrate one hundred and fifty years since the proclamation of Italian unity, in the long ago 1861. The central square is coloured white, symbol of the free air we breathe, the serenity of an honest, laborious life, the candour of the snow capping our mountains and the foam of the sea that fringes our beaches and cliffs. The largest square, which in a certain way also serves to frame the painting, is coloured green, the colour of hope for a better future, but also the colour of our mountains, valleys and forests, the colour, therefore, that represents the most important and meaningful asset of our territory - the landscape - which is too often ignored and belittled.

With this particular layout of the painting, the artist therefore set out, and managed, to convey a message of great social

value, collocating in a particular position the need for respect for our landscape which, united with the respect and valorization of our cultural heritage, is represented in the provision contained in Article 9 of our constitutional charter, which not only gives its name to the picture but has also been faithfully transcribed in it by the artist.

This hints at a purposeful participation of the artist in the original spirit of our founding fathers who, even in the long-distant 1947, by placing the protection of our landscape alongside promotion of the development of culture and scientific and technical research, showed that they intuited that the concept of cultural asset is not static, but dynamic; culture cannot be understood as separate from the assets that constitute the source; culture penetrates the things that constitute its material support. It cannot and must not be safeguarded separately from the assets that make up the cultural heritage of a nation; and in the most modern acceptance, it should not be forgotten that it is not only its cultural, historical, artistic and archaeological assets that make up the cultural heritage of a nation, but also the natural assets of its landscape. Savarese's painting exalts this truth and is, in turn, exalted by it: by the writing, the composition, the collocation of the colours, the green, which, far from merely enclosing the composition, proposes itself as an indissoluble trait d'union, an infinite path, a wide, serene opening between the painting and the landscape. (*Raffaele Tamiozzo*)



Figure 1. Detail of the cover image.

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