

The first complete census of public artworks in Torino

Luca Davico^{1*}, Paola Guerreschi², Luisa Montobbio³

¹Politecnico di Torino, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Viale Mattioli 39, 10125 Torino, luca.davico@polito.it

²Università degli Studi di Torino, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Viale Mattioli 39, 10125 Torino, paola.guerreschi@unito.it

³Politecnico di Torino, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Viale Mattioli 39, 10125 Torino, luisa.montobbio@polito.it

*Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT:

The website *Arte per strada Torino* (www.arteperstradatorino.it) arises with the aim of creating a single portal in which to highlight the first complete census of artworks (paintings, sculptures, installations, etc.) existing in public spaces of Torino and in its belt. It also intends to collect and underline publications, documents, other websites related to the topic of public art.

The sources used to register the artworks have been existing repertoires of public artworks in Torino, systematical field surveys in all the city districts and the municipalities of the belt, information collected from Città di Torino and the art associations MAU, Monkeys Evolution, Il Cerchio e le Gocce. The period considered is that from the 90s of the 20th century to now, as this has been a season of huge spread of public art in the area of Torino.

Since the end of the 20th century, public art has registered a tendency towards a progressive institutionalization: the self-managed spontaneity of murals is increasingly conveyed into projects conceived or supported by public or private institutions, thus street art - no longer regarded as an antagonist "crime" - increasingly joins programs of urban regeneration, in agreement with authorities.

In parallel, the asset of public art often becomes a competitive factor, playing a role in improving the perception of urban environments and, therefore, resulting in an element of attractiveness in many cities, for example for tourists.

In the policies to revive the city implemented in Torino in the last quarter of a century, public art plays an important role, both by transforming some urban landscapes - aspiring, in particular, to give them a new identity - and by helping to strengthen the image of a "city of contemporary art", also based on events such as Artissima and Paratissima, as well as on various art museums. Not only has public art grown remarkably in Torino, but the works have spread more and more from the center to the outskirts: thus, wether up to the 1970s two thirds of the artworks were gathered in the downtown, today over two thirds are in the outskirts and in the urban belt.

The website contains a review of over a thousand works of public art catalogued in tabs, one for each (individual or collective) work. Each tab contains the information gathered on author, title, year, project and location of the work - address, neighborhood, geographical coordinates -, links for any insights on other websites. It is also accompanied by one or more photographs and an extract of a map indicating the location in the urban area.

The tabs are accessible through three different pages of the site: a textual list sorted by neighborhoods and municipalities, a photo gallery, an interactive map. This thematic map was created using the open source software QGIS and published on the site, employing the plug-in qgis2web.

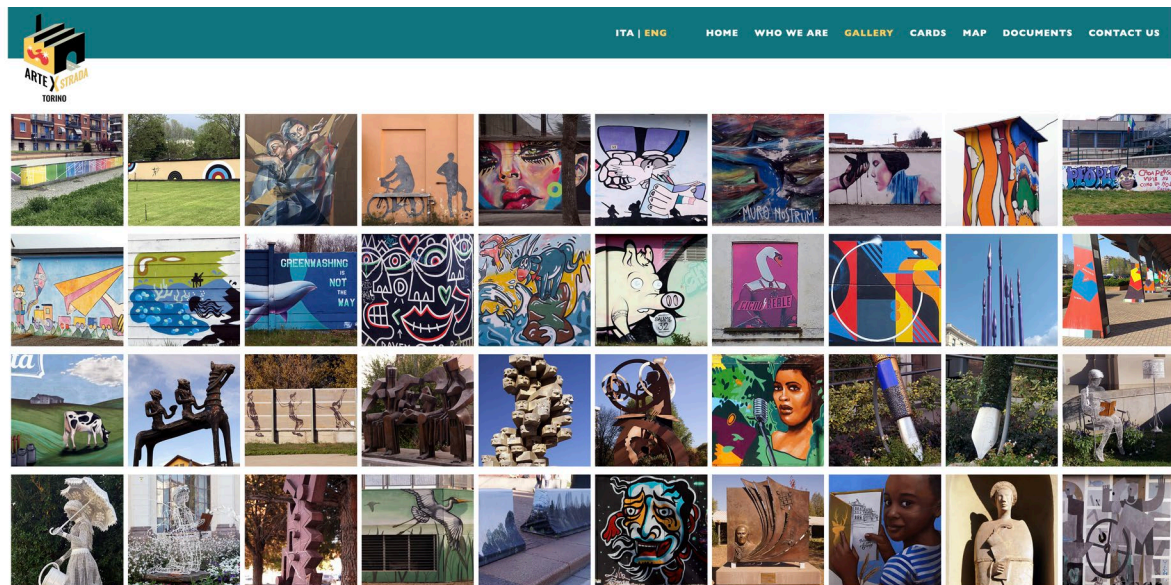


Figure 1. The gallery page of *Arte per strada Torino* website.