

## **BEVERLY PEPPER TRA TODI E IL MONDO**

Todi celebrates the tireless activity of the great American artist through exhibits, events and a park with her sculptures

**December 2018 - September 2019**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Starting December 2018, **the City of Todi** dedicates a series of events to the great American artist **Beverly Pepper** (New York, 1922) to celebrate her work in the green Umbrian hills, a site chosen as the ideal place to live.

When in 1970, the New York-born Pepper and her husband Bill settled in Todi, the artist moved her studio and started creating her most famous works, mostly Land Art. With featured international exhibits at the *Metropolitan Museum of Art* in New York, the *Museum of Modern Art* in Barcelona and the *GNAM* in Rome, Beverly has received numerous commendations, including the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the International Sculpture Center, *Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* from the French Republic and *Honorary Citizenship* from the City of Todi

Pepper started out with paintings and wood work, but soon discovered the fascination of Cor-Ten iron and steel. Her U.S. art has focused on the relation between the human and nature, teasing out the elements of harmony and friction between the two. The art critic Robert Hobbs considers Pepper's art "among the most distinctive and overall ambitious bodies of modern sculpture created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century" for her ability to blend still objects, historical buildings and contemporary human presence.

In Todi, Beverly found her own dimension in the 1970s when Italy was the utmost ambition for an American artist. She spent time in Rome, where she met artists, actors, movie directors, managers, political figures, and journalists of the caliber of Michelangelo Antonioni, Federico Fellini, Ennio Flaiano, Katherine Graham (publisher of *The Washington Post* and *Newsweek*), Audrey Hepburn, Marcello Mastroianni, Alberto Moravia and Keith Richards. Beverly bought and restored an old medieval castle in Todi.

Shortly after, Todi became her Italian residence, an oasis of solace and contemplation, away from the noisy and chaotic life of big cities. Her castle became the spot for weekend "pilgrimages" for artists and celebrities. While some preferred the jet-set life of the *dolce vita*, others sought the natural essence of the bucolic landscape.

"2019 will be the year our city will dedicate to Beverly Pepper" announced/stated Mayor Antonino Ruggiano "an extraordinary woman and artist who chose to live, work and create art, in Umbria and Todi, so much so to deserve the honorary citizenship. 40 years have passed since the extraordinary experience of the *Todi Columns*, and Beverly decided to donate a big part of her artistic collection to our city, to build the "Beverly Pepper's park". This will be the perfect occasion for a year-long series of celebrations, events and tributes that will make Todi the homeland of contemporary art once again."

The artist admits: "I have travelled all over the world, but never in my life have I ever missed a place like my workshop-house in Todi, my Umbrian **Beverly Hills**, as my visitors now call it. In here, Bill and I felt inspired to create, I forging my art and he writing his books."

The series of events has received the support of: the Umbria Region, the Province of Perugia, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia, FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano, Italian Environmental Trust) Perugia, Accademia delle Belle Arti Perugia.

**The first date of the celebrations** is set for **Saturday, December 8, 2018**, with the inauguration of a **big monographic exhibit** that will remain open until May 5, 2019. Curated by **Massimo Mattioli**, the exhibit will be hosted in the Sala delle Pietre, on the first floor of Palazzo del Popolo, one of Todi's most ancient medieval buildings.

Organized by the Fondazione Progetti Beverly Pepper with the Municipality of Todi, the exhibit displays the decade-long bond between the artist and the Umbrian city. The exhibition will feature unpublished photos from the artist's archive, narrating the most significant phases of her life and professional career, a maquette of the Park and the sculptures donated to Todi, which will be placed in the verdant public area.

On **April 6, 2019**, 40 years after their first installation in Piazza del Popolo, the celebrated **Todi Columns** will return to Umbria: four sculptures, approximately eight to twelve meters high and faithfully reproduced by the company Iron of Assisi, will once again tower the city piazza.

The *Todi Columns* have consecrated Beverly Pepper and Todi within the world's cultural-artistic scenario of the '80s: the sculptures have been shown around the world, from Brooklyn to Washington, Florence, and then in Venice, where the artworks are currently installed on the opposite square from Spazio Thetis at the Venice Arsenal.

Todi's celebration of Beverly Pepper will culminate on **September 15, 2019** with the inauguration of **Parco di Beverly Pepper, the first monothematic park of contemporary sculpture** in Umbria and **the artist's first in the world**: a naturalistic and urban journey immersed in the green that will connect the Temple of Santa Maria della Consolazione to the city center, purposely planned and designed by the artist and characterized by a series of sculptures donated to the city.

The project comprises the park's redesign and the formal installation of the sculptures, in order to allow the work of arts' constant interaction with the landscape. The *San Martino Altars* and the re-edition of the *Todi Columns* will accompany the **20 monumental sculptures** already donated by the artist to Todi. All of the samples, realized with different materials and in distinctive artistic periods, come from Pepper's private collection.

Two publications will accompany the celebration: a catalogue narrating the story and the new installation of the *Todi Columns* and a book on the *Il Parco di Beverly Pepper*.

The artist wishes to thank the Associazione "Todi per l'Arte" ("Todi for art" Association), Borgia Giulio & Mauro Snc, Cantina Lungarotti, Cantina Roccafiore, CoopCulture, IRON Spa, Luccioni Archstudio, TECNO-GRU Srl, Totem srl, Visioni Future and 1000e20 | OneThousandEvents production for the support.

Todi, November 2018

**Link to material and photos:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xegl0fo69uqv9i/AAA6t1SJ9zYObIsc1FfrQ6yKa?dl=0>

**Maria Bonmassar Press Office**

Tel. 06 4825370 - 335.490311 | [ufficiostampa@mariabonmassar.com](mailto:ufficiostampa@mariabonmassar.com)

**Fondazione progetti Beverly Pepper:**

[peppertodi@gmail.com](mailto:peppertodi@gmail.com) | [www.fondazioneprogettibeverlypepper.com](http://www.fondazioneprogettibeverlypepper.com)

**Facebook:** Beverly Pepper | **Instagram:** beverly.pepper | **condividi con #peppertodi**