

Arte e Cultura Ottobre 2001

GENTE DI BRERA- Portraits by Federica Berner

In May, the *Cortile della Seta* of the Banca

Commercio e Industria in Milan held an exhibition of portraits by Federica Berner, a Swiss painter who has lived in Milan for many years, more specifically in an area known as Brera. The beautiful portraits that the artist has presented depict well know and less well known individuals who keep the cultural traditions alive and make up the fascinating artistic community of Brera. Among the people portrayed there are famous writers and art critics such as Osvaldo Patani, Raffaele De Grada, Guido Ballo, Roberto Sanesi, painters like Emilio Tadini, Ibrahim Kodra, Sergio Dangelo, Enrico Baj, Agostino Bonalumi, Aldo Mondino, Mino Ceretti, Fernando De Filippi, Graziella March and other important members of the professional world, such as Guido Parpinelli, Raimondon Bianchi, Giuseppe Spadini, Nuccia Bossi, Giuseppe Ogliari and Franco Cavalleroni amongst others. The portraits show contemplation and energy, expressionist tension and abstract, surreal, metaphysical synthesis. The works of Federica Berner don't so much demonstrate the aspect of realism, as they demonstrate the poetry of light and signs, which prevail over the limitations of three dimensional volumes. The form, absorbed by light, seems to dilute and to bestow on the portrait not the suggestion of an opinion, but the introspective value which emanates from each individual. In these compositions modern life and tradition of portrait come together in an atmospheric and exuberant interpretation.