

ANTONIO PANZUTO



Antonio Panzuto, a painter, set designer, and sculptor, is an artist of the Italian scene who eludes labels with a smiling discretion. He invents original theatrical performances inhabited by objects and figures moved in plain sight through tangles of wires. By mixing wood and metals, ropes and fabrics, he creates visions according to the secret dictates of a pictorial dramaturgy that progresses through affinities and correspondences rather than logical or narrative connections.

He creates original theatrical performances with objects, machines, sculptures, and assembly paintings with motors or discarded objects, expelled from the nomenclature of beauty, with pieces of iron welded, glued, seemingly randomly juxtaposed, nailed with old boards, painted with broad and inconsistent brushstrokes.

In his set designs, he creates environments in which visual art bets on how it can become a scene, a place of light and movement, creating peculiar environments, film sets on stage, and making a special use of video animation.

Antonio Panzuto graduated in Architecture at the University of Venice in 1982 with a thesis dedicated to "Scenic Fiction in 19th Century Italian Melodrama."

However, he was determined to become a clown at all costs, and from 1982 to 1984, he attended the École Nationale de cirque in Paris, directed by Annie Fratellini.

In 1992, he took a scenography course led by Josef Svoboda at the Teatro Comunale di Modena. The following year, he began a collaboration with the Teatro Stabile delle Marche, where he conducted training courses, created his shows, and planned set designs until 1999.

In 1992, he presented his show TOWN MAP at the Royal National Theatre in London and at the Tricycle Theatre in London.



In 1994, with Alfredo Antonaros' BALKANIKA he won 1st prize at the Lugano International Festival. This show also marked the definitive consolidation of an inseparable partnership with director Alessandro Tognon, who has directed all subsequent shows.

In 2000, he participated in a workshop by William Kentridge (a visual artist, animator, and South African theater director) organized by the Atlantic Centre for the Arts at the Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Umbertide.

In the same year, the Contemporary Art Museum Complex at Castello Colonna in Genazzano (Rome) hosted a solo exhibition by Panzuto titled OBJECTS, MACHINES, SET DESIGNS.

In 2002, the Centro Cultural de Belém in Lisbon hosted the show EXTRAORDINARY NEWS FROM ANOTHER PLANET, and the same work won 1st prize at the Belgrade International Puppet Theater Festival in 2004.

As a set designer, he has worked with directors such as Eugenio Allegri, Valerio Binasco, Tadeusz Bradecky, Edmond Budina, Giorgio Gallione, Massimo Navone, Cristina Pezzoli, Nenad Prokic, Daniele Segre, Fatbardh Smaja, Giampiero Solari, Alessandro Tognon, Leo Muscato, and Ninni Bruschetta.

He has collaborated with Teatro Stabile delle Marche, Fondazione Emilia Romagna Teatri, Teatro Stabile di Pistoia, Fondazione Teatro Due in Parma, Teatro Stabile del Veneto, Teatro dell'Archivolto in Genoa, Teatro Regio in Turin, Teatro Eliseo in Rome, Circuito Lirico Lombardo, and other Italian Production Centers.

In 2003, he began an International Cooperation project with the Fondazione Emilia Romagna Teatri in Modena, working at the Mijenj Theater in Shkodër, Albania, and in 2004 at the Cultural Center of Belgrade, presenting a solo exhibition OBJECTS, MACHINES, SET DESIGNS and leading a visual arts workshop. In 2003, the show DEAR PROFESSOR for which he designed the set, produced by TeatroDue in Parma and directed by Valerio Binasco, won the UBU Award.



In 2006, he presented the show "ARABIAN NIGHTS" at the 15th "Giboulées de la Marionette" in Strasbourg and toured Morocco on behalf of the Institut Français de Culture de Casablanca. In 2010, his shows were presented at the International Puppentheater in Dordrecht, Netherlands.



In 2009, he created the sets for I PAGLIACCI by Leoncavallo and LA VOIX HUMAINE by F. Poulenc, directed by Leo Muscato at the Teatro Ponchielli in Cremona. In 2011, he designed the set for ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER by Pedro Almodóvar, directed by Leo Muscato and produced by Teatro Due in Parma. In 2012, he designed the set for WORDSTAR(S) by Vitaliano Trevisan, directed by Giuseppe Marini, a production of Teatro Stabile del Veneto. In 2013, he designed the sets for the show IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER with Roberto Citran, produced by Teatro Stabile di Verona. He created the installation THE THIN CITY for the Diocesan Museum of Padua.

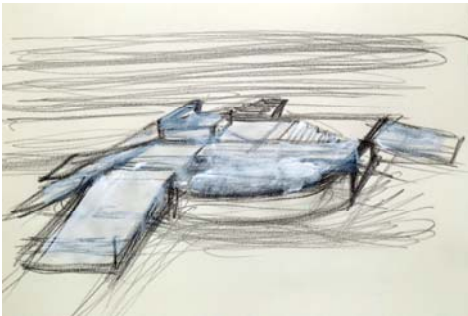


With the show WHO ARE YOU? GOSPEL OF THE PATIENT DONKEY based on the Gospel of John and directed by Alessandro Tognon, he won the Theaters of the Sacred Festival in Lucca, 2015 edition.

In 2014, he designed the set for HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU ABOUT THE NORTH WIND with Chiara Caselli and Roberto Citran, directed by Paolo Valerio, a co-production of the Naples Theatre Festival and Atlantide Foundation National Theater of Verona.

In 2015, he created the set for BEST FRIEND by Giuseppe Tantillo, with Claudio Gioè, staged at Teatro Vittoria in Rome, and the set for ULYSSE by Valerio Massimo Manfredi with Sebastiano Lo Monaco, a production of Sicilia Theatre.

In 2016, he designed the set for THE TARTAR STEPPE by Dino Buzzati, directed by Paolo Valerio, for National Theater of Veneto.



With this work he won the LE MASCHERE DEL TEATRO Award for Best Italian Set Designer.

In 2016, the Municipality of Padua organized a solo exhibition PAINTINGS SCULPTURES SET DESIGNS at the Galleria Cavour in Padua.

In 2017, he created the sets for the show THE ADVENTURES OF NUMERO PRIMO by Marco Paolini, produced by Jole Film.

In 2018, he designed the sets for Shakespeare's MEASURE FOR MEASURE directed by Paolo Valerio, at the Shakespeare Festival at the Roman Theatre in Verona.

In 2019, he designed the sets for the show JEZABEL by Irène Némirovsky, directed by Paolo Valerio at the Teatro Nuovo in Verona, and created the show HOMER ILIAD - THE GAME OF FORCE produced by TAM Teatromusica in Padua.

In 2020, he was awarded with the National Theatre Critics Award.



In 2021, he directed the international visual arts workshop WHAT I AM WHAT I WAS in collaboration with Waste Puppet Design - CTA Theater and Animation Center of Gorizia.

In 2022, he was the set designer and director of the play THE TEMPEST by W. Shakespeare, produced by Teatro Stabile del Friuli Venezia Giulia in collaboration with the International Festival of Cividale del Friuli.

In 2023, he designed the sets for the play ROMEO AND JULIET - GENERATION SACRIFICE directed by Silvia Masotti and Camilla Zorzi, produced by Teatro Stabile di Verona for the Shakespeare Festival in Verona.

In 2024, the Municipality of Padua produced and hosted his solo exhibition HERE WITH US THERE'S NO TIME at the Centro Culturale San Gaetano in Padua.

He was a professor of Puppet Theater at the Academy of Fine Arts in Verona from 2016 to 2019 and a tutor at the scenography school of the Artistic High School in Padua from 2015 to 2022.