

# SAN CARLO

CREMONA

Above the ruins of San Donnino, which had existed since the XI century, is rebuilt in 1612 the church that takes the name of San Carlo, in honor of San Carlo Borromeo. The renovation and extension of the church of San Donnino is completed in 1617: Marco Antonio Salomoni, bishop of Sora, greatly contributes to the decoration of this church, which takes care of souls until 1788, when it is closed and desecrated and is then reopened and reconsecrated to become a subsidiary of the church of Sant'Ilario.

The church of San Carlo remains open until 1859. In the spring of 1859, during the second war of independence between Piemonte and Austria, San Carlo is requisitioned, suspended from worship and closed, and transformed into a military accommodation for the Austrians. With the proclamation of the Kingdom of Italy on March the 17th 1861, Cremona becomes Italian. For San Carlo nothing changes, however, from housing soldiers it becomes warehouse until mid-1862 when it is reopened and resumes its activity continuously until 1915. In 1915, the entry of Italy in the First World War leads to the suspension of worship and the closure of the sanctuary.

The end of the conflict marks for San Carlo the third tranche of his long history, the most tormented, the most humiliating, the most difficult to summarize. Between 1923 and 1925 it is leased by the Red Cross who used it as a warehouse for the storage of hospital materials; between 1941 and 1946 it is rented by the nuns who transform it into a gym for their school; from 1946 to 1947 it is used as a warehouse by the Provincial Federation of Cooperatives of Cremona; in 1962 it becomes a warehouse for telephone poles and in the 80s it is given to Caritas (a charity) to use it as a warehouse.

It is inside this church that in 2021 the San Carlo Cremona project was born, a contemporary art exhibitions project. For the first year (September 2021 - September 2022) Servane Mary has invited artists to exhibit in the space of San Carlo Cremona: Mark Handforth, Dara Friedman and Robert Janitz. For the year 2023 San Carlo Cremona renews its collaboration with Servane Mary, who has invited Arthur Simms as first artist of 2023 and Olivier Mosset as second artist. Mosset presents in the space a monumental monochrome yellow painting of over 20 x 5 meters.

Each exhibition presented in the space is a site specific solo presentation of each artist's work that features various media spanning from sculpture, painting, film to sound installations and performance.