

## WORKSHOP

### **The breath of GOG:** *Ekphrastic Literature and painting*, by Giovanni Papini

*GOG* is a novel by Giovanni Papini, where he is talking about Goggins. His nickname is GOG, because it sounds like a little bit biblical and fabulous. He was mix blood, Hawaiian native and white race. After to work in a boat, like best boy at the kitchen, he arrives to USA and was living in many places, in there. Nobody knew how was possible, but he got several thousand of dollars with some kind of business. He quits soon the business because he prefers money server him, and not in an opposite way. Half wild and half rich man, like an emperor, he wants to know many countries, understanding all the extreme ideologies, but becoming wilder. His mind was like modern style, but his soul was so rude. He was extremely smart for the business and later he was recollecting rarities. Seven years after quitting the business, he wastes  $\frac{3}{4}$  of his money. Going from hospital to hospital, he was looking for the new, ... but he never remains too much time at any place. His speaking was strange: paradoxical and clever, but rude and beast...

The literature ekphrastic, used by Filostrato, is some kind of painting literature. There are many connections between word and image. Usually is well know this relation, often using the text subordinated to the painting (the writing like underline for images, the critical of Art) or the narrative painting. But here, with the literature ekphrastic, happens in opposite way: the text has many images (literary ones) and usually is made in order to the painting follows the writing. The main reason for this kind of literature is being like a kind of manual or guide for the paintings.

Also, Baudelaire wrote about the importance of the posing model when painting a portrait. This author gives some part of responsibility to get a good portrait not just to the painter, to the model also.

The project proposed in our subject is to use GOG like immaterial model, where the literary description by Papini is full of literary images and we can understand the GOG 's mind and psychology.

For make this project we thought about some special environment while painting, some strange and extreme ambient but sensitive and unusual. Because we don't need a visual data to watch the model, we thought about change the light environment, using candlelight during the pictorial session.

Because certain relationship between Papini and the iconoclastic instigating Futurism, we though that it would be proper implicate some senses else: the special smelling of the wax, an impure air in the classroom due candles and the usual smelling of the color painting becomes a particular and extreme aroma.

For the sense of hearing, we choose a marriage of music and words in a filmic way.

While painting we will listen the trilogy of albums *Murder Ballads (Drift)*, *(Passages)* and *(Incest songs)*, by Mick Harris & Martyn Bates, mixing archaic folk-song with Isolationism stratagems. Elaborated and dirty surround it seemed to be suitable.

About the two senses else we will propose each student makes a choice to join some taste and touch some material, both of them suggested by the pictorial ceremony raised.

We will show the curious collective conscious, which don't starts from images. Some lyrical approach is evoked in the panoramic of voluble scene-scapes (light, sound, smell) within a synesthesia confrontation (taste, tact) reaching beyond several genres.