



MARIO DELUIGI
1901-1978

A TIMELINE FOR THE *LITANY*

- 1901 Mario De Luigi, known as Deluigi, is born on June 21 in Treviso.
- 1927 He studies under Virgilio Guidi at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice.
- 1942-1944 He teaches at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice as Arturo Martini's assistant. In New York, Piet Mondrian devotes himself to his last, unfinished work, *Victory Boogie Woogie*. (Fig. 1)
- 1944 His first solo exhibition is held at Carlo Cardazzo's Gallery *Il Cavallino* in Venice. (Fig. 2)
- 1946 Together with his lifelong friends Carlo Scarpa and Anton Giulio Ambrosini, he establishes the *Scuola Libera d'Arti Plastiche* in Venice. (Fig. 3)
- 1946-1971 He teaches Stage Design at the University Institute of Architecture of Venice (IUAV).
- 1949-1950 He paints the altarpiece the *Litany of the Virgin*, originally intended for the apse of the Church of Santa Maria Ausiliatrice within the Astori Salesian College in Mogliano Veneto. (Fig. 4)
- 1950 The altarpiece is exhibited at the 25th Venice International Art Biennale, Italian Pavilion, Room 45.
It is later installed in the Church of the Carmini in Venice. (Fig. 5, 6)
- 1951-1953 Deluigi signs the *Manifesto of Spatial Art* (1951) and the *Manifesto of the Spatialist Movement for Television* (1952), and takes part in the first group exhibition of Spatialist artists at Galleria del Naviglio in Milan (1952). The following year, he signs the manifesto *Spatialism and Italian Painting in the Twentieth Century*. (Fig. 7, 8)
- 1953 He begins his grattages period, with works entirely different from the initial "physiological period" of the 1920s-40s, and even further apart from the experience of the *Litany*. (Fig. 9)
- 1963 Giovanni Battista Montini is elected pope on June 21, choosing the name Paul VI.

- 1964 On May 7, Paul VI gathers artists in the Sistine Chapel to celebrate a renewed alliance between the Church and modern artists. (Fig. 10)
- 1972 Paul VI visits Venice on September 16. On that occasion, Deluigi's altarpiece is presented to the Pope by Patriarch Albino Luciani – the future successor of Paul VI, who would take the name John Paul I – and by the Mayor of Venice. (Fig. 11)
- 1972 Commissioned by the City of Venice, the portfolio the *Litany of the Virgin* is printed by Fiorenzo Fallani workshop, with ten screenprints based on Mario Deluigi's painting. (Fig. 12)
- 1973 The portfolio is presented at the Fondazione Querini Stampalia by Father Germano Pattaro, in the presence of the artist, Venice Mayor Giorgio Longo, and Patriarch Albino Luciani.
The first edition of the portfolio (1/50) was donated to Paul VI. (Fig. 13)
- 1973 On June 23, Paul VI inaugurates the Collection of Modern Religious Art in the Vatican Museums.
- 1978 Mario Deluigi dies in Dolo (Venice) on May 27.
Paul VI dies in Castel Gandolfo on August 6.
After being part of Paul VI's private collection, the *Litany of the Virgin* enters the Collection of Modern Religious Art at the Vatican Museums as a bequest in the Pope's will.
On August 26, Albino Luciani was elected Pope with the name of John Paul I.
- 2023-225 The historic Venetian textile company Rubelli creates two tapestries inspired by Deluigi portfolio's serigraphs. (Fig. 14)
The altarpiece *Litanie della Vergine* is restored in the Painting and Wooden Materials Restoration Laboratory of the Vatican Museums.
The altarpiece is temporarily returned to Venice and displayed in the Sala Terrena of the Scuola Grande di San Rocco.



– Fig. 1 –



– Fig. 2 –



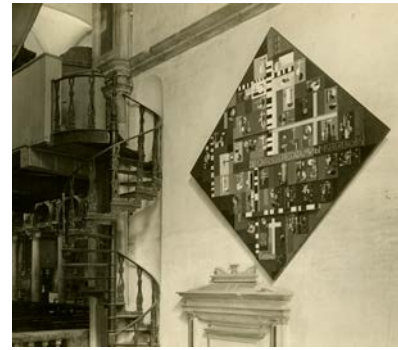
– Fig. 3 –



– Fig. 4 –



– Fig. 5 –



– Fig. 6 –



– Fig. 7 –



– Fig. 8 –



– Fig. 9 –



– Fig. 10 –



– Fig. 11 –



– Fig. 12 –

