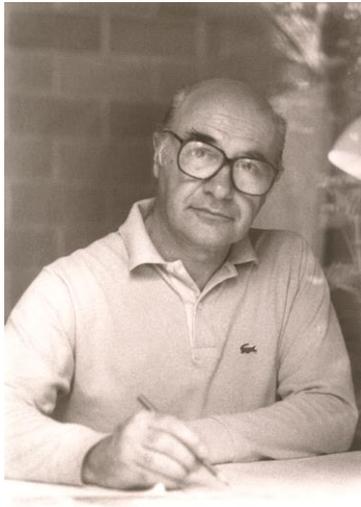


SHAPIRO

SELECTED WORKS FROM THE COLLECTION OF ROMALDO GIURGOLA AO LFAIA



Romaldo Giurgola's international practice as an architect and urban designer spanned over 60 years and created hundreds of award-winning projects in the USA, Italy, Asia, and Australia.

Giurgola, known to his many friends and clients simply as "Aldo", was born in Rome in 1920. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Rome with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in 1948. Winning a prized Fulbright Fellowship the following year enabled him to travel from Italy to the USA to study architecture at Columbia University in New York City, where he received his Master of Architecture degree in 1951.

Following a 30-year international architectural practice in the USA and Europe, Romaldo and his design team won the two-stage international design competition for Australia's new Parliament House in 1980, establishing the Australian firm of Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects in Canberra with his partners to design and document the huge project. Aldo moved permanently with his family from New York to Australia just before the completion of Parliament House in 1988, eventually becoming an Australian citizen in 2000 when he was 79 years old.



Giurgola's art collection, from which the works on auction have been selected, is unusual in its process of formulation. Aldo did not set out to be an art collector or to "have a collection". Rather, the majority of the works in his possession at the time of his death arose through his lifetime of collaboration and friendship with artists, designers, and craftspeople in Europe, the USA, and in Australia. Many of those works were gifts to Aldo and his family by his artist friends, and others were quietly purchased

by Giurgola at exhibitions and in the artists' studios to help support those artists' ongoing practices despite the scarcity of gallery sales or paid creative work.

Aldo valued his long relationships with artists and craftspeople which developed over time and often within multiple architectural projects, in which the integration between architecture and art was a seamless one in which both the artist and Giurgola contributed to the realisation of constructed places which mattered for people.

Many works in Aldo's collection are the result of friendships formed or strengthened during professional association. Two watercolours by Andy Warhol from Giurgola's collection, dated 1955 and 1956, stem from the period when Giurgola was the Art Director of *Interiors* magazine and Warhol was engaged for occasional work for the magazine.

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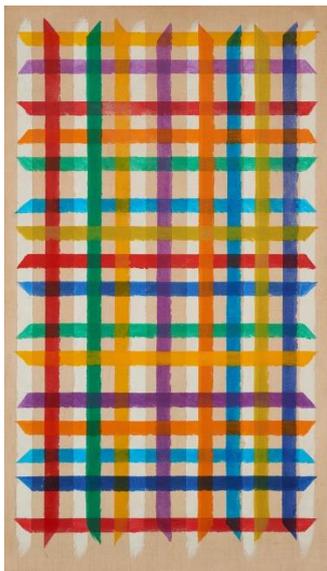
Much longer personal friendships and professional associations existed between Giurgola and the Italian artists Angelo Savelli (1911 – 1995) and Piero Dorazio (1927 – 2005). Selected works by these artists from Giurgola’s collection are included in this auction.

In 1951, Giurgola joined the architectural faculty at the University of Pennsylvania. During the restructure of its School of Fine Arts, Giurgola suggested the appointment of Angelo Savelli and Piero Dorazio to reorganize the study programmes in sculpture, graphics, and painting within the School.



Savelli, nine years older than Giurgola, had moved from Rome to New York in 1953, and in 1962 he took up the proffered appointment at the University of Pennsylvania while maintaining his New York studio practice. Aldo often spoke of the deep value of his long friendship with Savelli, and Giurgola’s personal papers contain handwritten letters and notes from Savelli’s warm ongoing correspondence with Aldo dated as late as 1988, seven years before Savelli’s death.

Giurgola’s friendship with the Italian artist Piero Dorazio, seven years his junior, began in Rome where they were born. Dorazio began studying architecture at the University of Rome in 1945 (later abandoning the architectural studies in favour of his art) at the same time when Giurgola had returned to the university after the war. Dorazio’s role in co-founding “Forma 1”, one of the earliest groups of Italian artists dedicated to abstraction, and Dorazio’s publication in 1955 of his book *La fantasia dell’arte nella vita moderna*, described by art critic Ken Johnson as “the first book on international Modern art to appear in Italy”, are well documented.



Dorazio joined Giurgola, Kahn, and others at the University of Pennsylvania at the same time as Savelli in 1962. As noted by American art historian and critic Edward F. Fry,

It is to Dorazio’s everlasting credit, moreover, that while he was the director of the graduate studio program at the University of Pennsylvania from 1962 to 1968 he brought the greatest living American artists to the university, including David Smith, Still and Newman; during his tenure at Pennsylvania it was possibly the outstanding school of its kind in the country (Fry, E, “Piero Dorazio and the Crisis of European Values”, *Piero Dorazio. A Retrospective. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo New York* (The Buffalo Fine Arts Academy 1979) p. 18).

During his years at the university, Piero Dorazio was heavily involved in the establishment of the Institute of Contemporary Art in 1963 and was appointed professor of the School in 1968 during Aldo’s architectural teaching tenure. In later years Aldo often spoke of the wonderfully intense debates about art and philosophy regularly occurring well into the night among that faculty group of artists, architects, and students.

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Aldo's personal friendship with Piero Dorazio continued for several decades of their lives, even following Dorazio's return to Italy in 1970 and his move to Umbria, where he set up his studio and lived in the country near Todi. Aldo and Piero intermittently arranged to meet both in Rome and in Umbria, especially in the late 1970s during Aldo's periodic visits as a Trustee of the American Academy in Rome and his firm's design of three public schools in northern Italy following the devastating earthquakes in 1976.

Many of the works from the Giurgola Collection in this auction carry with them the resonance of Giurgola's life as an international architect and educator, with his devotion to ideas and to the work of his many creative friends and collaborators.

M. Pamille Berg AO
Former Partner, Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects

AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL ART
INCLUDING WORKS FROM THE ESTATE OF ROMALDO GIURGOLA AO

AUCTION TUESDAY 28 MAY 6.30PM

Enquiries: (02) 9326 1588 | info@shapiro.com.au

Catalogue: shapiro.com.au online Wednesday 7th May

Piero Dorazio, *Senza Titolo*, 1965, Est. \$20,000 - \$30,000

Angelo Savelli, *Senza Titolo (Parallelogram)*, 1967, Est. \$15,000 - \$25,000

Angelo Savelli, *Double Centre*, Est. \$12,000 - \$18,000

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