

## BIOGRAPHIC NOTE

Sandro Dernini, a former biochemist researcher, has focused his interest on multicultural interdisciplinary exchanges between science and art.

Born in 1949, in Cagliari, Sardinia, he received in 1974 a Doctorate in Biology from the University of Cagliari. In New York, in 1997, he completed his Ph.D. in Art Education at the New York University.

Currently, he is the coordinator of the Forum on Mediterranean Food Cultures, based in Rome, and since 2002, he has organized three International Conferences with experts from all Mediterranean countries. He is member of the scientific board of the C.I.I.S.C.A.M. (Interuniversity International Center of Studies on Mediterranean Food Cultures) at the University of Rome "La Sapienza," that he assisted since 2004 in its establishment. He has also joined the international scientific committee of the Foundation for the Advancement of the Mediterranean Diet in Barcelona, and of the NGO Nutrition without Borders based in Spain. He is also member of the Italian Society of Human Nutrition and of the International Society for the Advancement of Living Traditions in Art (ISALTA).

From 1974 to 1978, at the Biochemistry Institute of the University "La Sapienza," as assistant of prof. Carlo De Marco, he conducted researches on qualitative and quantitative separations of sulphur and selenium amino acids.

In the 70's, he became involved in the Italian League of Cultural Alternative Associations (L.I.A.C.A.) and co-founded Spazio A, the first multimedia performance space in Sardinia. Moving in New York, in early 1980, he co-founded the Center for Contemporary Italian Culture of New York University and organized many cultural events and programs.

In 1982, in New York, he started the Plexus project, conceived as an experimental interdisciplinary effort committed to the achievement of a heightened understanding of alternatives enhancing human experience.

From 1986 to 1989, at New York University, he was the graduate assistant of prof. Angiola Churchill, co-director of NYU I.C.A.S.A. (International Center for Advanced Studies in Art), participating in the organization of the international symposia *The Dematerialization of Art; The Redefinition of Art in the Collision of the Post-Modern World; The Convergence of Art and Philosophy;* and *Art and Societies*.

From 1993 to 1994, he served as graduate assistant of prof. David Ecker, chairman of the Art Education Program of the NYU Art and Art Professions Department.

In 1992, as coordinator of the 1992 Christopher Columbus Consortium, that since 1989 he assisted in its creation, he organized in the island of San Pietro, Sardinia, the First International Columbus Reconciliation Forum on "The Well Being in the XXI Century." From 1995 to 1999, he coordinated other three international Well Being and Reconciliation symposia, organized in Sardinia by the Interdepartmental Well Being Center of the University of Cagliari that, he assisted since 1994 in its establishment.

In 1995, in Rome, he coordinated the establishment of Consortium for the Well Being in the XXI Century, and, in 1996, on the occasion of the FAO World Food Summit, he co-organized the special event *From Welfare to Well Being: Eating Art, Get the Best from Your Food, Food for All*, made in collaboration with the FAO Food and Nutrition Division.

From 2000-2002, in Rome, at the FAO Food and Nutrition Division, as consultant he developed the guidelines of the FAO Network of the Centres of Excellence on Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition.

From 2001-2002, in Rome, as general secretary of the Universitas Italica Foundation, he coordinated the Italian Committee of the international educational initiative *Feeding Minds-Fighting Hunger*, promoted by FAO, UNESCO and World Bank.

From 2000-2006, at the Institute of Food Science of the University of Rome "La Sapienza," as consultant he developed several nutrition education projects.

Since 2007, he is the head of the scientific secretariat of the president of the Italian National Research Institute on Food and Nutrition.