



**December 2017**

**Tatjana Debeljački vs. Claudia Piccinno**

**Interview**

**Can you tell us something about your hometown and growing up?**

I was born in Lecce, a wonderful town in southern Italy.

Nicknamed "the Florence of the South", Lecce is the capital of Salento, just 12 km from the Adriatic Sea. From the strong Messapian roots and called Lupiae under Roman dominion, the city welcomes lots of tourists in every season of the year with the splendor of its baroque that peeps in the portals of the palaces and the facades of the many churches, Lecce is home of a prestigious university and among the many students there are many Greeks too.

Since I was a child I was a great reader and a great walker. I walked to my great-grandmother's house in whose bookcase I always discovered something to read.

**When did you publish your first book and how did the success follow later?**

I published my first book in 2011, but I have been writing since I was 15 years old.

I think success is going to bed with a clear conscience and this kind of success has always been with me. The visibility instead has increased since my book *The ceiling* was published in a bilingual Italian-English version in 2014 and this fact, thanks to the word of mouth of the poets friends, allowed me to be known everywhere.

**The true purpose of art is to uplift humankind, inspire reverence and morality, and instill in people's hearts a true sense of beauty?**

Keats wrote: "*Beauty is truth, truth beauty*", - *that is all. Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.*" Well I think art help us to find out the truth, arts help us to reconcile ourselves with our limits and as well as we listen our deep song we can discover the other from us and empathize with him. Art teaches us the beauty of our inner self and it becomes a bridge of brotherhood among people. Where faith and reason give up, arts, every kind of art, become as Ariane's thread in the labyrinth and help us to reach truth, beauty, consciousness, ethic.

**Your writing and the style with which you express the symbolic power of lust and eternity?**

Lust is consequence of a society without feelings, an anaffective man can practice lust, there's a vacuum of values, he lives only to reach pleasure.

Eternity is in our steps when we live according to universal laws of love and respect among each other.

**Do you believe in the randomness and richness of life, and that every day is a possible adventure?**

Yes, I firmly believe this.

### **What can you tell us about your work, prizes, journeys and friendships?**

I'm a teacher in a primary school and I'm a learner too. Every day I learn together with my students. I try to improve their reading attitude, because no independent writing is possible without any reading.

In the last 6 years I gained 150 prizes in national and international poetry competition, but the most important award is the esteem of my friends.

Anyway going to a ceremony is a device to get in touch with other poets, in this meetings sometimes you discover lots of affinity with people you have never met before.

In my last journey to Istanbul, where I was special guest for Europe at Feministanbul 2017, and Belgrado where a Serbian edition of my book was launched at the international book fair, I made lots of new friends among great intellectual and poets. We are going to create a translation committee of poets, in order to promote poetry all over the world.

### **Do you think you have outwitted the expectations?**

Undoubtedly yes, also because I started writing as a soul therapy, not to chase the visibility.

### **Is there anything that you could pinpoint and tell us about yourself between dreams and reality?**

As a child I dreamed of being a missionary in underdeveloped countries, in a certain sense I have been faithful to the desire to take care of the underprivileged, in my poems indeed I give voice to those who don't have it: refugees, child soldiers, child brides, ...

### **What are your plans for the future creative work?**

I'll go on inviting writers and poets in the schools, because I believe it is important to motivate my pupils to love books. I'll translate into Italian language some books of my friend poets from Peru, Turkey, India, Saudi Arabia. I'll keep on writing poetry anytime poetry will knock at my soul.

### **Have you achieved everything you have ever wanted to and if you could live your life again would you be an artist again?**

For me, writing is research and knowledge of that *sacred little* that Italian poet Pasolini spoke about, and I believe we'll never stop learning about ourselves. So I think we can never feel arrived, where do we want to get there?

If I could live my life again yes... maybe I would be a poetry addicted again...

### **Is there anything you would like to say that you think is important and that I haven't asked you ?**

I'd like to remember our readers that poetry is for all, poetry must be brought in the squares, in the streets, in the prisons and in the hospitals.

Once upon a time it was used to sing about heroes' gestures or to incense kings, nowadays poets write about peace, because we believe poetry could really enrich or improve mankind.

Furthermore I'd like to thank you for this interview, it's great joy to talk with you.

Claudia Piccinno, thank-you! It was a great pleasure talking to you and you are always welcome to our houses "Diogen pro culture" and "Maxminus".