

## Who is Greta Frau?

**Greta Frau**, painter and preacher of Beauty, complex situation composed of art, literature and mysticism, was born in Sardinia in May 1942 (according to some in 1952 or 1962).

In 1987, when she was a researcher in microbiology, Greta's legs remained paralysed after a terrible accident. Since then her life has been endowed with the gift of painting and vision. Greta identifies Beauty with the absolute principle of cosmos and decides to spread this philosophy through *La Classe delle Trance*, a sort of sect composed of her former fellow schoolgirls.

But who Greta Frau really is remains a mystery. The artist has never appeared before the public, is never present at her exhibition openings and it seems impossible to arrange an interview with her. A painter with a single subject, she paints "by heart" with a smooth and academic style the portraits of the *Trance*: that is how she calls her mates that have emerged from the past in a state of psychic dissociation. The image of every new recruit is added to the numbered series of portraits: androgynous faces (the models are represented as fifteen-year-old girls no matter their sex or age), static and frontal, framed by the hair divided into two sides and by the white collar of the school uniform. The *Trance* are summoned to witness Beauty by taking Greta's word everywhere. The performances are authentic epiphanies of the author.

The number of the *Trance*, young girls ready to go off in a mystic faint but active missionaries as well, surprisingly keeps growing in number, while time is giving back to what is considered to be a single and progressive work the monumental breath which it was created for.

The crusade for the statement of the Beauty Principle, the ultimate aim of preaching, also goes on. There were the various *Dictations* during which Greta's maxims were thrown to the public; there was the collective *Reading* of the booklet of *Sermons*, the different kinds of *Homework* under the form of long sentinel waiting or exhausting outdoor excursions; there were the conferences, the *Get-togethers* and the promotional parties with ghost appearances and spring perfumes in spray cans; and the collective hypnosis experiment (*access beauty*) that promised a direct access to the Beauty Principle and, where there was success, an immediate, tangible skin rejuvenation.

In more recent exhibitions Greta and her companions were engaged in some sort of mysterious, ritual lessons about different subjects and for very first beginners. After the painting lesson (in which the making of a portrait, from the drawing to the final lay out, is shown in five different panels) and the ballet lesson (a complex twin-project showing an aged ballerina and a very young one), the Class is working now on a music lesson (*Die Schönheit im Auge der Kobra*).

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