

Press release

100 Years of Celestino Piatti - a Feast for the Eyes

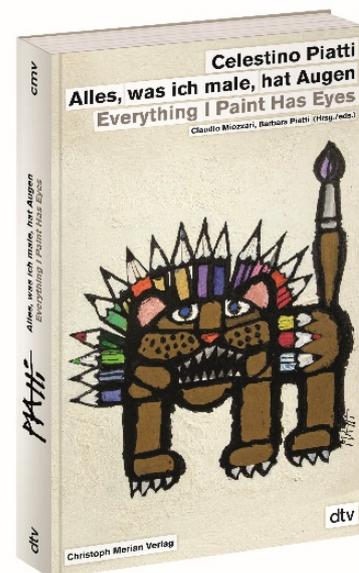
The Swiss graphic artist and illustrator Celestino Piatti (1922–2007) was a virtuoso when it came to fantasy, colour and form. His unmistakable and intensely colourful contour style is to be found on more than 6000 book covers designed for the German publisher Deutsche Taschenbuch Verlag (dtv). Now this opulently illustrated volume *Celestino Piatti: Alles, was ich male, hat Augen / Everything I paint has eyes* (Christoph Merian Verlag) honours the outstanding graphic artist on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth. The book celebrates Piatti's formally diverse oeuvre with about 400 selected works, a comprehensive look at his biography, numerous as yet unpublished images, and photographs from the family's private archive.

Owls and big cats, animals of all kinds inhabit Piatti's designs. He found inspiration simply everywhere, in the zoo, on his travels, during meals. To this very day Piatti's studio, more craftsman's than artist's workshop quite in keeping with his self-understanding as a commercial artist, bears witness to his effervescent creativity, his untiring experimentation with ink, paint and typography.

His decades-long collaboration with the publisher dtv in Munich is almost legendary. As of 1961 he designed thousands of book covers, and, as Art Director, was responsible for the overall corporate image of the young publishing house. Simply a great era of book art which has found its place in our visual memory. This also applies to many of his more than 500 commissioned posters. In the mid-1980s – when he was already regarded as Europe's most important commercial artist – Piatti took a stand, in his inimitable way, in the form of posters for human rights and cultural issues or against right-wing tendencies: "I fill in trenches with my graphic art." Always friendly and honest, he impressed people by his intelligence, his love of life and his cleverness – characteristics that flowed into his work and were an ingenious complement to his technical and his artistic expertise.

This book deliberately combines iconic works with unpublished works. It also gives a say to close companions, contemporary witnesses and graphic experts, who tell us about stations in Piatti's life, highlight individual works and techniques and position them in the context of the overall oeuvre. "Almost every drawing by me has an eye in it somewhere," Piatti declared in an interview in 1969. In this illustrated volume his life's work presents itself to our eyes as a fascinating cornucopia. Created in the era of analogue graphic art, his works are timeless thanks to their universal colour and formal idiom, and they are destined to remain a vibrant part of our cultural heritage.

Edited by Claudio Miozzari and Barbara Piatti



Claudio Miozzari, Barbara Piatti
(Hg.)

Celestino Piatti: Alles, was ich male, hat Augen / Everything I Paint Has Eyes

408 pages, more than 500 mainly colour illustrations, hardcover, 20 x 33 cm, German/English

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Printable files of the book cover and other illustrations are to be found in the Media Release relating to this new publication under:
www.merianverlag.ch/infos/presse

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