**Ettore Sottsass - Biographical notes**

Ettore Sottsass jr (1917 – 2007) was born in Innsbruck and spent his childhood in the Trentino Region (Northen Italy). He trained in Turin during the 1930s, following the footsteps of his father, architect Ettore Sottsass senior (1892 – 1954). In 1939 he graduated at the Politecnico in Turin, while at the same time cultivating his passion for painting under the guidance of painter Luigi Spazzapan.

In 1946, he moved to Milan where he devoted himself to architecture and collaborated with the Triennale, overseeing the set-up of the handcrafts sections.

Three years later he married Fernanda Pivano, who introduced him to English and American writers, in particular those of the Beat Generation: in 1967, together with Allen Ginsberg, he founded the underground magazine ‘Pianeta Fresco’.

Sottsass continued to work both as an architect and designer, winning many rewards such as the ‘Compasso d’Oro’, which he received in 1959 for the *Elea 9003* processor and *Valentine*, the first portable typewriter, both produced by Olivetti.

In 1961, he was taken into hospital in Palo Alto, in California, suffering from a severe kidney infection. Doctors managed to save him with cortisone medicines, and the ordeal left a mark on his memories of that period.

He loved traveling: he visited Europe, America and Asia. His travels inspired him and were at the center of many of his conceptual photos.

In 1976 the Venice Biennale dedicated a broad retrospective exhibition to Sottsass, curated by Vittorio Gregotti; on this occasion Sottsass met Barbara Radice who would later become his companion and who took an active part in the foundation of the Memphis Group (1981) and of the magazine ‘Terrazzo’, published between 1988 and 1996.

During the later years of his life Sottsass devoted himself to the organization of exhibitions and collaborated with both industrial designers and well-known galleries.

Sottsass died in Milan, on New Year’s Eve in 2007.