

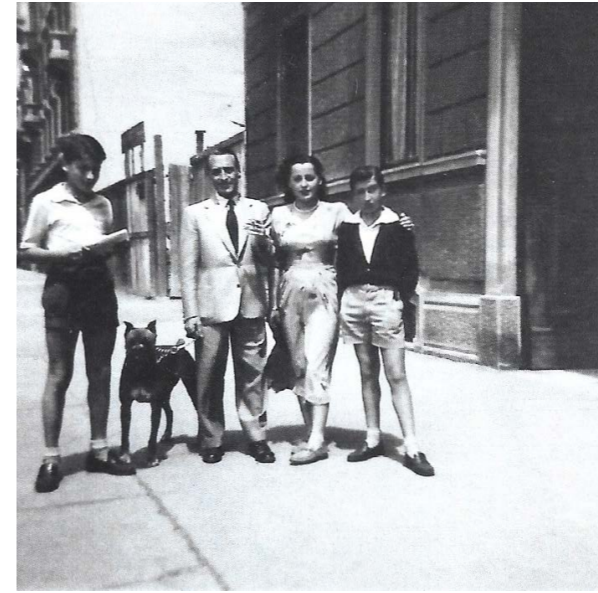
Childhood



Valerio Romani Adami was born in Bologna on March 17, 1935. His mother, Jolanda, is of Sicilian origin, while his father, Mario, comes from a family in Fermo. His earliest childhood memory is a musical one: the band playing Verdi's Requiem at Guglielmo Marconi's funeral:

"A melancholic painting. My earliest musical memory: the band accompanying Marconi's funeral in Bologna."

In 1944, after a brief stay in Padua during the war years, the family moved to Milan on Via del Caravaggio. Memories of these years, amidst bombings and skies ablaze with incendiary fragments, are etched indelibly in the artist's memory, and amidst the rubble of war, his first drawings are born - drawings of ruins. In his memoirs to his niece Valeria, he recalls that across from his house was the German command, and that German officers would take refuge in the cellar of his house during bombings, where they had transferred his mother Jolanda's piano to allow her to continue playing. His father Mario spoke German very well because he had studied in Berlin. During air raids, Valerio often did not go down to the basement with his parents but stayed with his grandfather, who cared for him when the little boy was unwell. In Milan, his education was entrusted to a tutor, but the dominant figure of his childhood was that of his paternal grandfather, Riccardo, a man of letters and a student of Giosuè Carducci, who instilled in Valerio and his brother Giancarlo an interest in literature.



Valerio & his family

His grandfather had decided to pretend to be deaf, perhaps in protest against the modern annoyances of his time:

"Strategy of drawing and strategic drawing. My grandfather was deaf, when my parents didn't want to shout, I would draw him a picture."

So Valerio began to draw. At the end of the war, he attended Ariberto school and then middle school, and later began scientific studies at the Jesuit high school Leone XIII, where he met Professor Biella. In his lessons on Dante, the young student, previously so resistant to the ancient, discovered the beauty of poetry. Simultaneously with his high school education, he also dedicated himself to a Phonology course. During a trip to Rome, he studied masterpieces of ancient and Renaissance art and found in the painting of Fausto Pirandello a great lesson on the 20th century.

