

## **Antonio Ligabue**

(born in Zurich, December 18, 1899 [1] - Gualtieri, May 27, 1965 [1]) was an Italian painter and sculptor, one of the most important of the twentieth century.

Antonio was adopted by Johannes Valentin Göbel and Elise Hanselmann, a couple of Swiss-Germans whom the painter considered his true parents. Due to poverty, the family was forced to travel a lot and Antonio lived between hardships and illnesses.

The difficult character and difficulties in his studies led him to change schools several times: first in St. Gallen, then in Tablat and finally in Marbach. Ligabue learns to read with a certain speed, and despite not being good at math and spelling, he finds constant relief in drawing.

After school he occasionally works as a farm worker.

Between January and April 1917, he was hospitalized for the first time in a psychiatric hospital in Pfäfers.

In 1919 after an attack on his adoptive mother, he was expelled from Switzerland. He was sent to Italy and on 9 August he arrived in Gualtieri, the place of origin of his father Bonfiglio Laccabue. [1]

In Gualtieri he continued to practice a nomadic life, occasionally working as a laborer or laborer on the banks of the Po. Just in that period he began to paint. The artistic expression relieved his anxieties, mitigated his obsessions and filled his loneliness.

In 1928 that he, thanks to the meeting with Renato Marino Mazzacurati, he taught him the use of oil colors. Ligabue came to the decision to devote himself completely to painting and sculpture.

In the years 1937 to 1948 he was hospitalized several times in the San Lazzaro psychiatric hospital in Reggio Emilia, due to his manic-depressive states, which sometimes resulted in violent attacks.

The most prolific artistic period began in the 1950s and in 1961 the La Barcaccia Gallery in Rome consecrated it on a national level.

Antonio Ligabue died sick in Gualtieri, where he died on May 27, 1965. [1]