

**For Immediate release**

## **Mazzoleni at Masterpiece, London, 2018**

**The Royal Hospital Chelsea | Booth B29**  
South Grounds  
London, SW3 4 LW, UK

Mazzoleni announces its participation at Masterpiece, London, 2018. The gallery's fourth appearance at the fair will present works by significant Post-War Italian artists, and International Modern Masters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, including: **Giacomo Balla; Agostino Bonalumi; Alberto Burri; Marc Chagall; Christo; Lucio Fontana; Hans Hartung; Fausto Melotti** and **Victor Vasarely**.

Selected Post-War works by Italian artists Alberto Burri (1915-1995), Agostino Bonalumi, (1935-2013) Lucio Fontana (1899-1968) and Fausto Melotti (1901-1986) will be presented. Burri developed a new material realism that stood apart from gestural abstraction and its emotive content, blurring the boundaries between painting and relief sculpture. He will be represented by two powerful combustion works from the 60s, created from acrylic and melted plastic on cardboard. This coincides with a presentation of Burri's *Celotex and Multiples* at the Mazzoleni gallery, London.

Lucio Fontana first embarked upon his *tagli* in 1958 and developed the motif by creating his canvases in an extensive colour palette. By the 1960s, he was producing his *Concetto Spaziale, Attese* with the confidence of an artist at the very height of his artistic powers. The yellow waterpaint on canvas on display from 1965, with one dramatic slash, is an example of Fontana's pioneering spatio-temporal investigations. The work will be displayed alongside *Disegno nello Spazio*, 1981, by Fausto Melotti, reflecting the two artists close personal and artistic relationship which begun when they were both students of sculptor Adolfo Wildt (1868–1931) at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Milan. Both artists engaged with space and navigated the relationship between a work and its environment. Fontana's cuts open a new space behind the canvas, while Melotti's sculptures respond to movement and vibration, creating new spaces through interactions with their given environment.

Bonalumi, who was influenced by Fontana, also explored the plasticity of the canvas with his 'Painting-Objects'. He will be represented by the sculpture *Bronzo*, 1969 – 2007, shown alongside his 'extroflexions'. The display will precede a major retrospective of his oeuvre this July at the Palazzo Reale, Milan, which will examine Bonalumi's connections with definitive European movements and the renewed international appreciation which the artist's innovative works have provoked.

Works by Modern Masters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, will include *Ricerca luce ideale n. 52*, 1929, an oil on canvas by Giacomo Balla (1871-1958), Futurist master of colour and perception. Originally hung in the artist's studio, Casa Balla, Rome, the painting is one of only twenty-two of its kind. Also included will be *Coq Rosé*, 1959, a gouache on paper by Marc Chagall. With a balanced palette of pale pink, blue and black, the painting is exemplary of the poetic compositions that Chagall is renowned for.

There will be a focus on 50s, 60s and 70s European abstraction with works by revolutionary Hungarian-French artist Victor Vasarely, (1906-1997) and dynamic paintings by Hans Hartung, (1904-1989), who was a major figure in Art Informel. Hartung will be represented by two of his post-war works, including *T-1962-H6*, a distinctive vinyl tempera on canvas, from 1962, and *T1973-R29*, an acrylic on canvas from 1973. After the war he adopted a more spontaneous style free from rigid formal constraints. In *T-1963-H6*, the colours blue, brown and black provide a sense of balance, while Hartung's intense gestural scratches swirl with energy. Vasarely will be represented by a striking geometrical work, *Bellatrix – Bie*, 1956, from his celestial Bellatrix Series, created during his Black and White Period of the late 50s. Often dubbed the 'leader' of the Op-Art movement, Vasarely developed an 'internal geometry' from experimenting with textural effects, perspective, shadow, and light.

On display also will be a work by Christo (b.1935) and Jeanne-Claude (1935-2009), a preparatory drawing from 1973 of the monumental installation, *Running fence*. This extraordinary work was 5.5 metres high and 39.4 kilometres long. The project consisted of 42 months of collaborative effort and was finally installed in 1976 in the counties of Sonoma and Marin, California. Christo and his late wife Jeanne-Claude, are known for their 'wrapped' installations and for their ambitious sculptural works that interact with environments around the world, temporarily altering both the physical form and visual appearances of sites. Christo's first large-scale public sculpture in the UK will float on The Serpentine lake in Hyde Park from 18 June to 23 September to coincide with a major exhibition of the artists' work at the Serpentine Galleries.

## **About MAZZOLENI**

Mazzoleni was founded in Turin in 1986 and opened a Mayfair-based London gallery in October 2014. Over the past three decades Mazzoleni has organised solo and group exhibitions of more than 150 prominent Italian and international artists from across the 20th century. Recent critically acclaimed exhibitions have included the major Alberto Burri solo exhibition in 2015, “Piero Manzoni. Achromes: Linea Infinita”, curated by Gaspare Luigi Marcone in collaboration with the Piero Manzoni Foundation, “Fontana/Melotti. Angelic Spaces and Infinite Geometries”, curated by Daniela Ferrari, “Colour in Contextual Play, an installation by Joseph Kosuth”, curated by Cornelia Lauf and Joseph Kosuth, “UnComfort Zone” with Dimore Gallery, “Light in motion: Balla Dorazio Zappettini”, curated by Elena Gigli and “MORE THAN WORDS” curated by Daniela Ferrari. All exhibitions are accompanied by fully illustrated monographs, often featuring newly commissioned research contributing to current critical and art historical discourse. Mazzoleni participates at international art fairs, including London, Basel, Hong Kong, New York and Miami.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Masterpiece | Booth B29

### **Wednesday 27 June**

11 AM - 9 PM Preview Day (Invite only)

### **Opening Times: Thursday 28 June - Friday 29 June**

11 AM - 9 PM (Public Admission)

### **Saturday 30 June – Sunday 1 July**

11 AM - 7 PM (Public Admission)

### **Monday 2 July – Wednesday 4 July**

11 AM – 9 PM (Public Admission)

Address: MAZZOLENI, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4HZ

Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat 11am – 5pm Admission:

Free Website: [www.mazzoleniart.com](http://www.mazzoleniart.com)

Email: [press@mazzoleniart.com](mailto:press@mazzoleniart.com)

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