

***MAZZOLENI 1986-2016: 30 years of art.
30 Italian artists***

Curated by Gaspare Luigi Marcone
Torino - London

Mazzoleni Torino: Private view Thursday 27 October 2016, 6-8 PM
from 28 October 2016 to 21 January 2017

Mazzoleni London: beginning of 2017

A prestigious exhibition presenting the Mazzoleni gallery's exceptional 30-year commitment to promoting Italian art around the world.

MAZZOLENI 1986-2016: 30 years of art. 30 Italian artists, curated by **Gaspare Luigi Marcone**, represents an opportunity to explore the stages in a unique journey via the icons of the Italian 20th century.

30 artists recount 30 years of the Mazzoleni gallery, founded in Turin in 1986 and launched in London in the prestigious Mayfair art district in 2014.

The exhibition project extends to both gallery sites: on 27 October 2016 Mazzoleni will be inaugurating the first show in its historic space on Piazza Solferino 2 in Turin, while the section hosted by Mazzoleni London on 27 Albemarle Street will be opening at the beginning of next year.

The exhibition traces a coherent path through the history of 20th century art with works by 30 Italian artists, starting out with the Italian movements that in the early years of the century had the greatest international impact: Futurism and Metaphysical Art. An influence that nourished the proliferation of interweaving and genealogies with the artists who came onto the art scene in the following decades.

The research and works of Balla, Severini, de Chirico and Savinio were to be decisive for artists such as Fontana, Burri, Capogrossi, Dorazio, Vedova and Baj. In their turn, these artists represented points of reference for others born between the Thirties and Fifties such as Castellani, Manzoni, Bonalumi, Colombo, Paolini and Nunzio to name but a few.

The **catalogue** covering the entire project, published in Italian and English by Carlo Cambi editore, includes a long conversation between the curator Gaspare Luigi Marcone and members of the Mazzoleni family. This text provides fundamental insights into the choices that moulded the approach of a family devoted to art and its valorization and the catalogue is supported by statements by the artists, a rich array of illustrations and historical documents from the gallery's archives.

The **Mazzoleni** gallery was founded in 1986 by Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni and in 2014 it expanded with a new space in London. For over 30 years Mazzoleni has exhibited more than 150 Italian and international artists from the 20th century.

The gallery was a natural evolution of the private collection of Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni. Begun in the early Sixties, the collection has brought together works

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from the most important artistic trends including Surrealism, Futurism, Metaphysical Art and Abstract Art. The Italian art of the period following the Second World War soon became the principal focus of the collection and when Davide and Luigi joined the gallery's staff in the 1990s, the centre of the curatorial programme. Today the exhibition space in Turin occupies three floors of Palazzo Panizza which overlooks the historic Piazza Solferino, incorporating what was once the principal foyer of the neighbouring Alfieri Theatre. The London gallery is located on Albermarle Street in the Mayfair art district. The over 300 m² of exhibition space host a programme of museum quality focussing on Italian art of the post-war period, working closely with the archives and foundations of reference of the various artists. In recent years, under the capable direction of Davide and Luigi, Mazzoleni has intensified its international operations, participating in numerous fairs in London, Paris, Hong Kong, Miami, New York and elsewhere.

Featured artists:

Giacomo Balla (1871-1958); Felice Casorati (1883-1963); Gino Severini (1883-1966); Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978); Alberto Savinio (1891-1952); Massimo Campigli (1895-1971); Lucio Fontana (1899-1968); Giuseppe Capogrossi (1900-1972); Fausto Melotti (1901-1986); Afro (1912-1976); Giulio Turcato (1912-1995); Alberto Burri (1915-1995); Emilio Vedova (1919-2006); Roberto Crippa (1921-1972); Enrico Baj (1924-2003); Arnaldo Pomodoro (1926); Piero Dorazio (1927-2005); Giuseppe Uncini (1929-2008); Enrico Castellani (1930); Piero Manzoni (1933-1963); Michelangelo Pistoletto (1933); Mario Schifano (1934-1998); Agostino Bonalumi (1935-2013); Gianni Colombo (1937-1993); Getulio Alviani (1939); Gianfranco Zappettini (1939); Giulio Paolini (1940); Gianni Piacentino (1945); Salvo (1947-2015); Nunzio (1954).

Press office

Mazzoleni Torino

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Opening hours:

From Tuesday to Saturday 10.30 am – 1 pm / 4 – 7 pm

Sundays by appointment; closed Mondays.

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Extracts from the catalogue

Art has always been my primary interest, since back in the late Fifties... I was around 20 years old and visiting exhibitions in the museums and a few galleries, especially here in Turin. ...Initially I was alone, but then my companion, in every sense of the term, was my wife Anna Pia whom I met in 1960 and who was also a lover of art. ...The works that I could get to know best because they were present in the museums or the collections of certain acquaintances were, let's say, those of Turin or Piedmont artists... in chronological order, Giacomo Balla and Felice Casorati...

...Those were years of transition for Italian art and for a 20-year-old to see Balla and Fontana in his own city at the same time slowly provided an artistic schooling...

I have always bought what I liked or what transmitted something to me, starting with the historic Italian masters of Futurism and Metaphysical Art, as well as those from Turin, until Burri and Fontana arrived and I was infected by "Burri-itis" and "Fontan-itis"...

Here in Turin in the Sixties, exhibitions by Fontana or Burri were still considered scandalous except by a minority who admired them.

Gradually, I also began to explore the research of younger artists, of my generation let's say, those born in the Thirties, Bonalumi, Castellani, Manzoni or Pistoletto, which are still part of my collection...

Around 1985, for a series of reasons too complicated to explain, I decided to acquire both the collection and the spaces of the Galleria Gissi in Piazza Solferino 2 in Turin, and thus in 1986 I opened my own gallery. In order to establish a sense of continuity I initially called it the Nuova Gissi; there were me, my wife and my sister Elisabetta then in the late Eighties and early Nineties my sons Davide and Luigi began working with me...

In 2003, under the guidance of my son Davide, we decided to call our project Mazzoleni gallery, while in 2014 my son Luigi opened the branch in London. My sons are now responsible for running the two galleries while I have let's say an "advisory" role...

Giovanni Mazzoleni in conversation with Gaspare Luigi Marccone, 2016

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