

PRESS RELEASE

**Mazzoleni at Art Basel Hong Kong
23 March – 25 March 2017
Booth 3E03**

Returning to Art Basel Hong Kong for the fourth time this March, Mazzoleni will present a selection of works exploring three different methodologies carried out by Italian artists of the 1960s and 1970s: Spazialismo (Spatialism), kinetic art and Pittura Analitica (Analytic Painting). The presentation will include key examples of work from the protagonists of each movement including Agostino Bonalumi (1935–2013), Alberto Burri (1915–1995), Enrico Castellani (b.1930), Lucio Fontana (1899–1968), Fausto Melotti (1901–1986) and Gianfranco Zappettini (b.1939). Each of these artists proposed an alternative understanding of space and their groundbreaking experiments fueled the development of conceptual art in the latter half of the 20th century. Highlight works will include a rare *Barocco* by Lucio Fontana from 1956 and a major *Rosso Plastica* by Alberto Burri from 1968, alongside newer works by Gianfranco Zappettini, a pioneer of the Pittura Analitica group in 1970s Italy.

Shown in a delineated space within Mazzoleni's booth, the gallery will stage a solo display of one of Italy's leading abstract painters Piero Dorazio (1927–2005). The presentation will be one of 19 projects featured as part of Art Basel's first Kabinett sector in Hong Kong. Focusing on the artist's output from the 1960s and 1970s, the selection of works will illustrate the dramatic shift in Dorazio's practice from loose weave-like monochromes, to canvases of broad sinuous bands, and finally to a more rigid and geometric approach to painting.

A pioneer of abstract art in Italy, Dorazio was highly influenced by Italian Futurists such as Giacomo Balla (1871–1958). He co-founded Forma1, a group of artists who declared themselves 'Formalists' and proposed a kind of mediation between realism and abstraction. In 1947 Dorazio moved to France to study at L'École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he met Henri Matisse (1869–1954), Francis Picabia (1879–1953) and Georges Braque (1882–1963). At this time he was known for his near-monochromatic paintings whose surfaces consisted of densely crisscrossed strands of colour, usually called *Reticoli*.

Dorazio was invited to present his first international solo exhibition in 1953 in New York City and in the same year he met abstract painters Jackson Pollock (1912–1956), Franz Kline (1910–1962) and Willem de Kooning (1904–1997), as well as the art critic Clement Greenberg. Influenced by abstract expressionism and colour field painting, Dorazio incorporated bars of colour in twisting luminous strokes in his compositions before settling on a more precise approach that reflected his sentiment of 'colour [as] an instrument, not a means of expression'. Works on display will include an example of Dorazio's *Reticoli* in blue from 1957, alongside later expansive works including *Climber* from 1968 and *Sub Gratia* from 1969.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

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Art Basel Hong Kong will take place from Thursday 23 March – Saturday 25 March 2017.

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. The gallery evolved from the private collection of Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni who have been collecting since the 1960s. The collection brought together significant works from important international art movements including Surrealism, Futurism and Abstract Art. Italian Post-War art quickly became

the primary focus of the collection and became the core of Mazzoleni's curatorial programme when Giovanni's sons Davide and Luigi joined the gallery in the 1990s.

Today the Turin gallery takes up three floors of Palazzo Panizza, overlooking the historic Piazza Solferino and occupying part of the original 19th century foyer of the Alfieri theatre. The London gallery is situated on Albemarle Street, in the heart of Mayfair's historic art district. The 3,000 square foot space – designed by architect David Trad – hosts exhibitions across two levels, presenting a programme focused on museum-calibre Post-War Italian art and art from the Seventies, working in close collaboration with artists' estates and foundations.

Recent critically acclaimed exhibitions have included the major solo Alberto Burri exhibition in 2015, 'Piero Manzoni. Achromes: Linea Infinita', curated by Gaspare Luigi Marcone in collaboration with the Piero Manzoni Foundation, and 'Fontana/Melotti. Angelic Spaces and Infinite Geometries', curated by Daniela Ferrari of the MART Museum Trento/Rovereto in 2016. All exhibitions are accompanied by fully illustrated monographs, often featuring newly commissioned research contributing to current critical and art historical discourse. In addition, in recent years Mazzoleni has been increasingly present at international art fairs, participating across London, Basel, Hong Kong, New York and Miami, amongst others.

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