

**Immediate release**

## **Mazzoleni at Frieze Masters, 2018**

**Regent's Park | Stand E14**  
London, UK

**Lucio Fontana | Enrico Baj | Piero Manzoni**

Mazzoleni is pleased to announce its participation at Frieze Masters, 2018. The gallery returns to the fair for a second time and will present a display curated by Gaspare Luigi Marcone with three undisputed masters of Post-War Italian art, Lucio Fontana (1899-1968), Enrico Baj (1924-2003), and Piero Manzoni (1933-1963). The presentation will be a homage to 1958, an important year in which the different research of all three artists was displayed and published together.

In 1958, two exhibitions were presented in Italy under the title *Fontana Baj Manzoni*, both accompanied by a critical text by Luciano Anceschi. The first was held at the Galleria Bergamo in the city of Bergamo from the 4th to the 17th of January. The second was presented at the Galleria del Circolo di Cultura in Bologna from the 23rd of March to the 8th of April that year. Almost certainly the Bologna exhibition was the first time in which Manzoni presented his new 'white works', subsequently entitled *Achromes*. Apart from this importance to Manzoni's career, 1958 was also a very significant year in Fontana's research. Following the invention of the 'holes' in 1949, the founder of Spatialism began to work on his first *Concetto spaziale Attese* featuring 'cuts' in the canvas and in 1958 a room was devoted to Fontana's work at the Venice Biennale with an overview of his revolutionary approach. The same year in September saw the publication of the third issue of the 'nuclear' periodical *Il Gesto* edited by Baj, Manzoni and Sergio Dangelo. The cover of the magazine, conceived by Fontana, was riddled with a series of 'holes' while inside the latest works by contemporary artists and poets were reproduced (Gillo Dorfles, Jean Dubuffet, Marcel Duchamp, Asger Jorn and others).

During this period the partnership and mutual respect between the three artists was also confirmed in a number of 'collective' works; for example, Baj and Manzoni produced *Arrivo dell'ultracorporo* together in 1958, using oils, collage, mixed media and kaolin, while Fontana and Baj were jointly responsible for *Composizione con ultracorporo*, 1959, oil, collage and stones on canvas.

The works on display will examine this key moment in art history with pieces from 1958 as well from before and after this date in order to shed light on the paths followed by the artists. Focussing on the artists' use of radical new methods and experimentation with materials that eventually defined their 'signature' work, the show will traverse art movements such as Spatialism and Nuclear Art. The presentation will reflect the dynamic exchange of avant-garde ideas brought about by rapid technological and cultural transformation in Italy during this period.

One of the most innovative artists of the twentieth century, Fontana was the founder of Spatialism – he began puncturing holes in the surface of his work to investigate space beyond a flat surface. The presentation will feature a striking red *Concetto Spaziale*, 1956, oil, holes, mixed media and glass on canvas and a terracotta *Concetto Spaziale* from 1957 that exemplifies the artist's passion for interrogating space with a forceful manipulation of surface and matter. This important work provides the viewer with a fascinating insight into the development of his artistic research.

Also on display will be major works by Enrico Baj, artist, writer and co-founder of the Nuclear Art Movement with Sergio Dangelo. As an author, he was a leading promoter of the avant-garde and responsible for publishing the 'nuclear' periodicals and manifestos. His vivid paintings, collages and outspoken writings challenged artistic and political orthodoxies. Like Fontana and Manzoni, Baj also pursued an approach 'beyond painting', utilising fabric, buttons and decorative objects to create his work. He will be represented by several pieces, including *Testa montagna*, 1958, and *Canterano pneumatico*, 1961, major examples of his pioneering ideas and artistic practice.



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The presentation will include one of Piero Manzoni's formative works – close to the aesthetics of the Nuclear Art Movement – *Untitled*, 1956, oil and tar on canvas, and an *Achrome* created in 1958-1959. Manzoni's personal curiosity, collaboration and frequent trips around Europe became critical in defining this new geography of art. After experimenting with spreading gesso on canvas (1957-1958), Manzoni decided to work with kaolin, a material used in the production of ceramics, into which he would dip the canvas, which when mounted onto a frame and dried would assumed the puckered quality used to create his *Achromes*. Following these experiments, Manzoni continued to produce *Achromes* with very different materials – including sewn cloth, polystyrene and phosphorescent paint – in parallel with other radical works (*Linee*, 1959, *Fiato d'artista*, 1960, *Basi magiche*, 1961, *Merda d'artista*, 1961), redefining the concept of art.

### 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, "Pittura Analitica: Then and Now", curated by Alberto Fiz, "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, "Michelangelo Pistoletto: Origins and Consequences" curated by Alberto Fiz. 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

#### **Frieze Masters 2018 | Stand E14**

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#### **Opening Days:**

**Wednesday 3 October (Preview – by invitation only).**

**Thursday 4 October – Preview - 12 - 8 pm. Private view 5 – 8 pm**

**Friday 5 October & Saturday 6 October – 11 am – 7 pm**

**Sunday 7 October – 11 am – 6 pm**

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)

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#### FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES

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