

Press Release

Mazzoleni at Frieze Viewing Room (Frieze Masters 2020 edition)

7 – 16 October 2020

This year, on the occasion of Frieze Viewing Room, Mazzoleni is delighted to present a project which highlights the complexity and artistic experimentation of Twentieth century Italian art through different generations of artists.

The early part of the century was defined by the creation of various key avant-garde movements such as *Futurism*, which undoubtedly dominated the Italian artistic scene. A pioneer of this major movement, Giacomo Balla (1871-1958) embraced its principles and aesthetics, which he expressed through a new representation of modernity encompassing the triumph of new technology and rejecting academic conformism.

In the aftermath of the First World War, many artists returned to realism which recalled Italian Classical grandeur. Whilst it was a major source of inspiration, their artistic expression also retained an enigmatic quality. This new artistic language resulted from a group of artists associated with the Roman magazine *Valori Plastici*, founded in 1918. **Carlo Carrà** (1881-1966), **Giorgio de Chirico** (1888-1978), **Alberto Savinio** (1891-1952), and **Giorgio Morandi** (1890-1964) all contributed to the publication as spokesmen of the *metaphysical movement*, precursor to the European Magic Realism movement, of which one of its main exponent was **Felice Casorati** (1883-1963).

The legacy of their art had a profound influence on other European movements such as Surrealism among others.

Italian artists of the *Post-war period* shared a ground-breaking approach to painting, experimenting with new techniques and materials. They became interested in the study of colours, monochromes, surfaces, and unorthodox materials. Propelling a radical innovation in the way they used media, they saw the canvas as a medium far too restraining for their art. **Alberto Burri** (1915-1995) expressed this transformation through violent manipulations of rough materials, **Lucio Fontana** (1899-1968) with slashes and holes which perforated the canvas opening a *new* dimension, and **Enrico Castellani** (1930-2017) and **Agostino Bonalumi** (1935-2013) by insertions protruding through the canvas resulting in movement and vibration.

A final focus on *Art Informel* evokes the confidence and creative energy of post-war Europe. Underlining the deep transformation of the international art scene of the 1950s and 1960s, the selection features the innovative language of **Hisao Domoto**, **Toshimitsu Imai**, **Hans Hartung**, **Georges Mathieu**, **Jean-Paul Riopelle** and **Pierre Soulages**.

About MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni was founded in Turin in 1986 by Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni, as a natural evolution of their private collection started in the 1950s. Since 2014 the historic Turin space has been flanked by the London gallery in Mayfair. Over the past three decades Mazzoleni has organised solo and group exhibitions of more than 200 prominent Italian and international artists from across the 20th century with an exhibition programme focused on museum-calibre Italian art from the post-war period and recently the contemporary panorama, working in close collaboration with artists' estates and foundations.

Under the leadership of Davide and Luigi Mazzoleni, the gallery has intensified its international activities, participating in numerous art fairs, including Art Basel (Basel, Miami and Hong Kong), Frieze Masters (London), TEFAF (Maastricht and New York) and FIAC (Paris).

Notes to Editors

Fair: *Frieze Viewing Room (Frieze Masters 2020 edition).*
Dates: 7th – 16th October 2020

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