

Press Release

Mazzoleni at Frieze Masters Seoul 2022

FRIEZE Masters Seoul 2022 | COEX, Seoul, Hall C | Booth M2

Collectors Preview (invitation only): 2 September 2022

General Admission: 3-5 September 2022

**AGOSTINO BONALUMI | ALBERTO BURRI | GIORGIO DE CHIRICO | LUCIO FONTANA
| PIERO MANZONI | JUAN MIRÓ | GIORGIO MORANDI | VICTOR VASARELY**

Mazzoleni presents “Post-War European Masters”, a project that will stage a selection of works from 1950s and 1960s by the most prominent Italian artists, which will be juxtaposed with surrealist figures by Joan Miró and Optical Art masterpieces by Victor Vasarely.

For this **first edition of Frieze Seoul**, Mazzoleni presents a **curated overview of the gallery’s collection** featuring important works by Italian and international post-war masters. The project traces a path through the history of 20th-century Italian art, from the **avant-gardes**, such as metaphysical painting, through **post-war movements** and the research of the following decades, in a thorough dialogue with the surrealist visions by Joan Miró and Vasarely’s Optical Art masterpieces.

Metaphysical characters and mystical still-lives establish an intimate dialogue between **Giorgio de Chirico** (1888-1978) and **Giorgio Morandi** (1890-1964), which will be juxtaposed to surrealist figures by Joan Miró. De Chirico creates contracts between classic motifs and architectures and everyday objects, generating enigmatic scenes that turn the banal into marvelous, whereas Morandi's *Natura morta* (Still Life), 1959, produces lyrical auras with thin layers of paint. Connections to land and interest in everyday objects - as well as the natural environment - are the elements at the basis of **Joan Miró's** (1893-1983) research. After World War II, Miró started a series of poetic works based on the combined themes of women, birds, and stars, of which *Femmes et oiseaux*, 1967, is an example.

Alberto Burri (1915-1995) is considered one of the most prominent Italian artists of the 20th century. Pioneer of informal art, he is best known for his works blurring the line between painting and sculpture. With his oeuvre, Burri developed a new material realism that stood apart from the existentialist content of post-war gestural abstraction. The works *Sacco Bianco Nero*, 1956, *Rosso plastica*, 1962, e *Nero Cretto*, 1978, illustrate the artist’s experimentations with raw materials, such as jute, plastic, and acrovinyl.

Lucio Fontana (1899-1968) significantly shaped the successive research on conceptual art. Starting to slash and perforate surfaces in both painting and sculpture, Fontana is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century as well as the founder of Spatialism with the publication of his *Manifesto Spaziale* (Spatialist Manifesto) in 1947.

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Fontana's revolutionary practice inspired a younger generation of artists who pushed his experimentations forward. **Piero Manzoni** (1933-1963) questioned the nature of art itself and its infinite possibilities with his *Achrome* series, while **Agostino Bonalumi** (1935-2013) challenged the traditional classification of painting and sculptures with his shaped canvases, activating unprecedented interactions between artwork, space, and observer. These spatial reflections and the use of monochromatic surfaces have been subsequently investigated by other extra-European movements, such as the Dansaekhwa artists in Korea in the 1970s.

A final focus on Optical Art will feature works by the movement's pioneer **Victor Vasarely** (1906-1997), who played a key role in the use of optical and kinetic illusions with colours and shapes. The display will present works from the so-called "Black and White" period from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a few vibrant examples from the 1970s and 1980s, such as *Gestalt-chi*, 1973, a captivating green-tone oil on canvas that bears witness to the highly kinetic tensions of the artist's geometric language.

MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni was founded in Turin in 1986 by Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni as a natural evolution of the private collection they 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 also 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 Beach, and Hong Kong), Frieze Masters (London and Seoul), TEFAF (Maastricht and New York) and FIAC (Paris).

NOTES TO EDITORS

FRIEZE Masters Seoul | Booth M2

COEX, Seoul, Hall C | 513 Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, 06164

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General Admission: 3-4 September 2022, 1pm - 7.30pm; 5 September 11am - 5pm

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Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri 10 am - 6 pm | Sat by appointment

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Gallery Hours: Tue - Sat: 10 am - 1 pm / 3.45pm - 7.15pm | Mon by appointment

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