

Mazzoleni presents Marinella Senatore's *We Rise by Lifting Others* at Art Basel Unlimited 2025



Marinella Senatore, *We Rise by Lifting Others*, 2023. LED bulbs and Flex led on a wooden structure, 7.1 x 34m. Installation view, NOOR Festival, Riyadh, 2023.

Art Basel 2025 | Messe Basel, Basel, Switzerland Unlimited | U2

Public Days: 19 – 22 June 2025

Mazzoleni is delighted to showcase *We Rise by Lifting Others* (2023) by Marinella Senatore at Art Basel Unlimited 2025. Renowned for her large-scale light sculptures, or *luminarie*, Senatore unveils a 34-metre-long installation, first presented at NOOR Festival Riyadh under Jérôme Sans' curation. Reimagined for Art Basel, this iteration features a refreshed palette and new textual messages.

Rooted in community dialogue, *We Rise by Lifting Others* holds profound significance. The sculpture's illuminated phrases – “We Rise by Lifting Others” (attributed to American lawyer and orator Robert G. Ingersoll) and “I Contain Multitudes” (from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*) – were initially chosen by female inmates in Florence and residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Naples,

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respectively. By recontextualising these statements, Senatore bridges social divides, reinforcing her commitment to uniting communities through art.

Senatore's practice interweaves collective rituals, public engagement, and the transformative power of community. Her work merges historical tradition with contemporary discourse, reinterpreting the Baroque-era use of ephemeral architectural displays as a form of storytelling and social commentary. "Luminarie are like ethereal architectural structures that can build the idea of the plaza even when this plaza doesn't exist," Senatore reflects. Like their 17th-century counterparts, her installations are often located in public spaces. Yet, by relocating this communal form into the context of an art fair, *We Rise By Lifting Others* encourages audiences to reconsider the space as one of connection, dialogue and shared experience.

With this presentation at Art Basel Unlimited, Senatore establishes her status as one of the prominent artists of her generation, working at the intersection of community, activism and contemporary visual arts. Her ability to transform historic tradition into dynamic, participatory experiences ensures her work remains both visually striking and socially resonant – a beacon of light, both literal and metaphorical – in an increasingly divided world.

NOTES TO EDITORS

MARINELLA SENATORE

Marinella Senatore (Cava de' Tirreni, 1977) is a multidisciplinary artist with a background in music, fine arts, and cinema. Her work is rooted in collective engagement, blending aesthetic exploration with the transformative power of social interaction. Senatore uses traditional forms, including pop culture, music, dance, and mass events, to reflect on the political dimensions of collective rituals and their potential for social change, creating moments of collaboration and community-building.

In 2012, she founded The School of Narrative Dance (SOND), a nomadic, free, non-hierarchical educational initiative that promotes alternative systems of learning focused on empowerment and self-education. Over the past decade, SOND has engaged over 8 million people in 23 countries. A key element of Senatore's practice is light, which she uses as a narrative tool and a medium for resistance and cohesion. Her large-scale light sculptures, handcrafted from LED bulbs and recycled materials, are inspired by Southern Italy's illuminated decorations, creating temporary spaces for public rituals and socialization. Senatore has also pioneered eco-friendly sculptures made from mercury-free neon, demonstrating her commitment to sustainability.

Senatore's works have been commissioned and exhibited by prestigious institutions worldwide, including the Hayward Gallery, London; Vatican, Rome; Noor, Riyadh; FORMAT Festival, Arkansas; Museo del Novecento, Milan; Serpentine Gallery, London; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; and Berlinische Galerie, Berlin. Her School of Narrative Dance has been commissioned by renowned institutions such as the Venice Biennale, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin; Queens Museum, New York; Kunsthaus, Zurich; Malta; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; Museum Villa Stuck, Munich and Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice.

Senatore has participated in numerous major biennials, including the Venice, São Paulo, Lyon, and Havana Biennials, alongside many others. Her work has earned accolades such as the Lio Art Prize (2023) and ACACIA Prize (2021). Through her innovative practice, Senatore continues to challenge conventional boundaries and use art as a tool for dialogue, education, and social transformation.

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MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni is a leading Post-War Italian and contemporary art gallery based in London and Turin. With over 35 years of activity, Mazzoleni focuses on a museum-calibre exhibition programme and participates in the main international art fairs, including Art Basel, Frieze, and TEFAF, as well as Artissima, Artefiera and Miart. Most recently, the gallery has expanded its reach towards new art scenes with its participation in Frieze Seoul, Art Abu Dhabi and Art Dubai.

The Mazzoleni collection is exhibited in museums and institutions worldwide, such as: the Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo in Paris; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington; The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg; Tate and the Estorick Collection in London, as well as Museo del Novecento in Florence, the GNAM in Rome, MADRE Museum in Naples, Triennale Milano and Palazzo Reale in Milan, and the Venice Biennale. Mazzoleni represents the Estate of Agostino Bonalumi.

Art Basel 2025 | Messe Basel | Galleries, Booth E11, Hall 2.0 | Unlimited, U2

Unlimited (by invitation only): 16 June 2025

VIP Days (by invitation only): 17 – 18 2025

Vernissage (by invitation only): 18 June 2025, 4pm – 8pm

Public Days: 19 – 22 June 2025

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