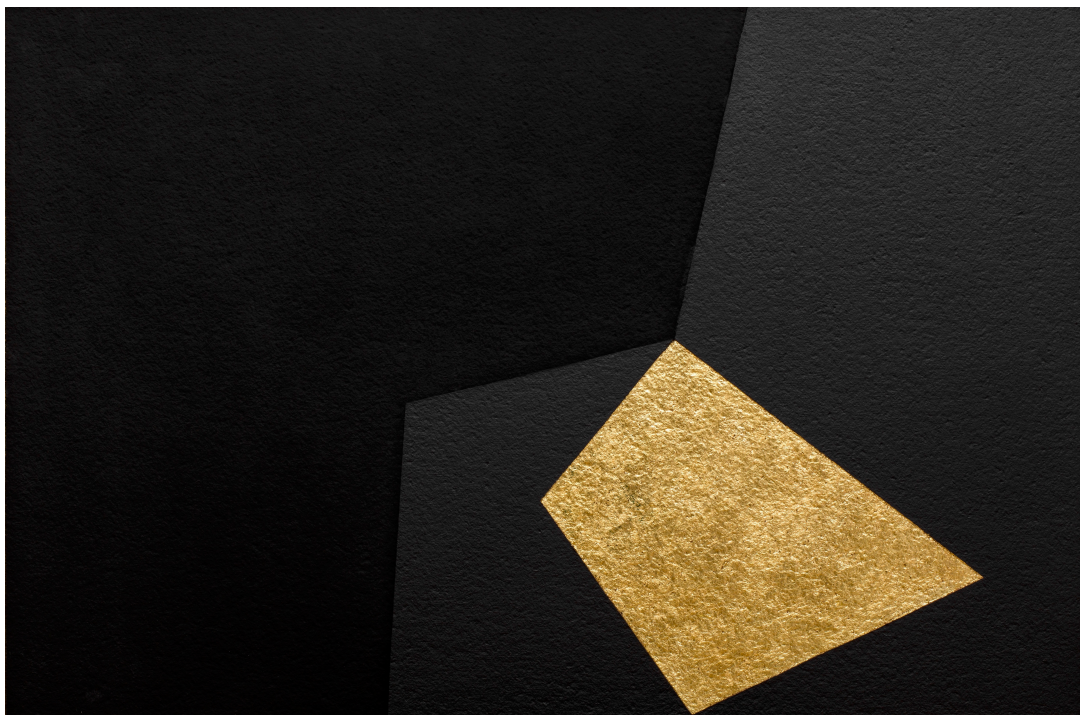


NERO X NERO

BURRI AND NUNZIO

Curated by Bruno Corà



Mazzoleni, Milan

1 October – 20 December 2025

Private View: Tuesday 30 September, 10 am – 9pm

Mazzoleni inaugurates its new Milan location with *Nero x Nero*.

Mazzoleni opens its new Milan exhibition space on **Tuesday 30 September 2025** with the exhibition ***Nero x Nero*** (Black x Black), dedicated to works by **Alberto Burri** and **Nunzio**, curated by **Bruno Corà**, art critic and President of the Burri Foundation in Città di Castello.

Uniting two of the most significant voices in Italian art, the exhibition reflects **Mazzoleni's long-standing ties with both artists**. Burri's works have accompanied the gallery's nearly forty years history through major projects, including solo exhibitions in Turin (2004, 2012) and London (2015). Nunzio has been central to the London programme with two solo shows, the first curated by Kenneth Baker in 2019, and more recently, in 2023 with a presentation of

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previously unseen drawings. Both were also brought together in *Burri, Kounellis, Nunzio. Ethic of the Artwork*, curated by Corà in London in 2021.

The exhibition underscores **Mazzoleni's dual vocation**: on one hand, the commitment to promoting the great masters of post-war Italy, and on the other, fostering dialogue with contemporary artists. Here, Burri and Nunzio meet around the **theme of black**.

In the critical text accompanying the exhibition, Corà recalls that the first work installed by Burri at Palazzo Albizzini was **Catrame 1** (1948). In the following years, black became a constant presence in his work, "like the cosmic darkness of an unknown dimension to venture into, Burri's black is always an elaboration of spaced matter, where form and an equilibrium shared with the 'caecitas' of poets still reign." Black is also the result of a transformative action of fire, as within the **Plastiche series**, in which Burri pushes the potential of matter to its limits. Choosing the alchemical nature of "...flame as an infernal brush", as Brandi defined it in his famous 1963 essay, Burri paints with fire and exploits its entire potential, simultaneously destructive and generative.

For **Nunzio**, fire is equally transformative. "A purifying bath that changes the state of matter and evokes its fossil, the darkness," he explains. From his earliest works, shadow, night and black have marked his research. Burnt wood and lead, his chosen materials, open a dialectic between permanence and change: wood as night and shadow, lead as light, mutable and reflective. As Corà writes, "What renders Nunzio's work dialectical with Burri's is the attention to the qualification of form as an ethical entity that confronts and withdraws from time."

Alongside wood, Nunzio also uses lead, a material that introduces a further level of tension and complexity. If wood represents **shadow and night**, lead instead connects to light, to its capacity to continuously transform the perception of the work. The surface of the metal, unstable and changing, reacts differently depending on the incidence of light, making each sculpture an organism in becoming. This **dialectic between wood and lead**, between combustion and metallic surface, constructs a sculptural language that unites the rigour of matter with its poetic transformation.

Among **Alberto Burri's** works, **Nero Cretto** (1970) and **Nero e Oro** (1993) are particularly significant. The latter, with its black acrylic and gold leaf on cellophane, draws inspiration from Ravenna's mosaic tradition and revisits the pure abstraction of Burri's early work. Nunzio's sculpture **Avvoltoio** (2019), demonstrates his ability to transcend **post-war Italian sculptural tradition**, while a newly conceived work for the Milan space expands his exploration of fire and material metamorphosis.

Both sculptures are suspended between light and shadow, marked by scars of combustion and the vitality of transformation.

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The exhibition opening will take place on **Tuesday 30 September** by invitation, with the **artist in attendance**.

NUNZIO

Born in 1954 in Cagnano Amiterno, in the province of L'Aquila. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, graduating from Toti Scialoja's course. Since 1973 his studio has been at the former Pastificio Cerere, in the Roman district of San Lorenzo, where Bruno Ceccobelli, Gianni Dessi, Giuseppe Gallo, Piero Pizzi Cannella and Marco Tirelli would also work. After a first exhibition in 1981 at Galleria Spatia in Bolzano, in 1984 he exhibited large-scale plaster sculptures at Galleria l'Attico in Rome in an important solo show presented by Giuliano Briganti. In 1985 his first American exhibition, at the Annina Nosei gallery in New York, opened the doors of collecting and contributed to the international dissemination of his expressive language. Between the late 1980s and early 1990s, exhibitions followed in succession in Italy and abroad. In 1995 he was invited to the Venice Biennale. His first solo exhibition in Japan was in 1994, at the Kodama Gallery in Osaka, followed by participation in the Fujisankei Biennale in 1995. In 1997 he presented bronze works for the first time at Galerie Alice Pauli in Lausanne, and in 2005 held his first solo exhibition at Galleria dello Scudo in Verona, curated by Lea Vergine. From the same year and the following are the anthological exhibitions mounted at MACRO in Rome, curated by Danilo Eccher, and at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade and at the House of the Croatian Artists Association in Zagreb, curated by Bruno Corà. From 2012 is the solo exhibition at Museum Biedermann in Donaueschingen, Germany, presented by Norbert Nobis. In 2018 he presented the solo exhibition *Nunzio – Giallo di Napoli Nero pece Blu cobalto* at Galleria Casamadre in Naples. In February 2019 he was invited by Anna-Maria Ehrmann-Schindlbeck to Galerie der Stadt in Tuttlingen (Germany) for a solo exhibition entitled *Skíá*. In 2019–2020, commissioned by MAXXI – L'Aquila, he produced the site-specific work *Sospeso* for Palazzo Ardinghelli. Nunzio currently lives and works between Rome and Turin.

MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni is one of Italy's leading Modern and Contemporary Art galleries with locations in London, Turin and Milan, active for over 35 years. Mazzoleni presents museum-quality exhibitions and participates in major international art fairs in the Art Basel, Frieze, TEFAF circuits; Artissima, Artefiera and Miart in Italy and recently opening to new collecting realities in the East, participating in fairs such as Frieze Seoul and Art Abu Dhabi. The gallery's collection is exhibited in museums and institutions worldwide, including 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 Gallery and the Estorick Collection in London, the Museo del Novecento in Florence, GNAM in Rome, Museo MADRE in Naples, the Triennale and Palazzo Reale in Milan and the Venice Biennale in Italy. The gallery represents the Agostino Bonalumi Estate.

NERO X NERO. Burri and Nunzio.

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Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 AM–1:00 PM / 2:00 PM–7:00 PM

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