

Press Release

Mazzoleni at Art Basel Miami Beach
7 – 10 December 2017
Preview: Wednesday, 6 December 2017



Mazzoleni will return to Art Basel Miami Beach for the third year running this December. The 2017 presentation will be inspired by the rich artistic exchange between Italy and the United States in the 1950s and 1960s, bringing together works by several Italian masters, including Afro (1912–1976), Getulio Alviani (b.1939), Agostino Bonalumi (1935–2013), Alberto Burri (1915–1995), Giuseppe Capogrossi (1900–1972), Enrico Castellani (b. 1930), Piero Dorazio (1927–2005), Lucio Fontana (1899–1968) and Tancredi (1927–1964).

A renewed interest from American museums in Italy's art at the end of the 1940s fostered a "New Italian Renaissance" in the aftermath of World War II. In 1949, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, held the 'Twentieth Century Italian Art' exhibition, showcasing the country's burgeoning talent, including Afro and Fontana.

During this period, the Italian-American art dealer Catherine Viviano opened a gallery in New York, which played a key role in the flourishing of Italian Post-War art for two decades. Mazzoleni's presentation will explore how Viviano launched Afro's career in the US giving him his first solo show in 1953. With support from Viviano and the Galleria dell'Obelisco in Rome, Afro became one of the most successful Italian artists in the US. In 1955, Afro, along with Alberto Burri and Giuseppe Capogrossi participated in MoMA's milestone exhibition 'The New Decade: 22 European Painters and Sculptors'.

During this same period, James John Sweeney, second director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, included Burri's work in the 'Younger European Painters: A Selection 1953' exhibition. Two years later, the artist had his first large show at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. The presentation in Miami will include one of Burri's works from the *Sacchi* (sacks) series created using burlap (a woven fabric made from jute or sisal).

Mazzoleni's presentation will also highlight the work of Tancredi, who met American art collector Peggy Guggenheim in 1951 in Venice. She gave him a studio space in her palazzo and not only

bought some of his works, but also donated them to other institutions, including MoMA. He was the only other artist besides Jackson Pollock whom Guggenheim placed under contract. When in New York, Tancredi found new inspiration and discovered his own style, which comes through in *Aspirazione a New York* (1952) that will be exhibited in Miami.

Also in the spotlight will be one of Fontana's iconic silver works, *Concetto Spaziale* (1962), created after his fascination for New York City's skyscrapers following a visit to the city in 1961 for his solo show with Martha Jackson Gallery.

Other highlights from the presentation will include works by Castellani, Dorazio and Alviani. All three artists were included in the seminal MoMA exhibition 'The Responsive Eye' in 1965, which formalised Op Art as a movement.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

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Art Basel Miami Beach 2017 will take place from Thursday 7 December to Sunday 10 December 2017.

Image credit: Alberto Burri (1915–1995), *Bianco Plastica B 1*, 1967, Courtesy Mazzoleni London – Torino.

About Mazzoleni

Mazzoleni was founded in Turin in 1986 and opened a gallery in London's Mayfair 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. The gallery evolved from the private collection of Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni who have been collecting since the 1960s. The collection brought together significant works from important international art movements, including Surrealism, Futurism and Abstract Art. Italian Post-War art quickly became the primary focus of the collection and the core of Mazzoleni's curatorial programme when Giovanni's sons Davide and Luigi joined the gallery in the 1990s.

Today the Turin gallery spans three floors of Palazzo Panizza, overlooking the historic Piazza Solferino and occupying part of the original 19th century foyer of the Alfieri Theatre. The London gallery is situated on Albemarle Street, in the heart of Mayfair's historic art district. The 3,000-square-foot space hosts exhibitions across two levels, presenting a programme focused on museum-calibre Italian Post-War and the 1970s art, collaborating closely with artists' estates and foundations.

Recent critically acclaimed exhibitions have included the major solo Alberto Burri exhibition in 2015, 'Piero Manzoni. Achromes: Linea Infinita', curated by Gaspare Luigi Marcone in collaboration with the Piero Manzoni Foundation and 'Fontana/Melotti. Angelic Spaces and Infinite Geometries', curated by Daniela Ferrari of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto in 2016. Showing concurrently in Mazzoleni's London gallery at the time of Art Basel Miami Beach will be 'LIGHT IN MOTION: Balla, Dorazio, Zappettini', which reveals shared themes in the work of three prolific 20th-century Italian artists, Giacomo Balla (1871–1958), Piero Dorazio (1927–2005) and Gianfranco Zappettini (b. 1939). The exhibition will remain open until 9 December 2017. In Turin, the double project *Colour in Contextual Play. An installation by Joseph Kosuth and Neon in Contextual Play: Joseph Kosuth and Arte Povera*, open until 20 January 2018.

All exhibitions are accompanied by fully illustrated monographs, often featuring newly commissioned research contributing to current critical and art historical discourse. In addition, in recent years Mazzoleni has participated in a number of international art fairs, including in Basel, Hong Kong, London, Miami, New York and Paris.

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Sunday: by appointment