

Press Release

Mazzoleni at Frieze Masters 2019 | *Celestial Bodies*: Stand E14

Regent's Park, London, UK

3 – 6 October 2019

Getulio Alviani | Agostino Bonalumi | Alberto Burri | Alexander Calder | Enrico Castellani | Lucio Fontana | Fausto Melotti | Giulio Turcato | Victor Vasarely | Gianfranco Zappettini

Mazzoleni is pleased to announce its participation at Frieze Masters, 2019. The gallery returns to the fair for third time and will present *Celestial Bodies*: a display which will comprise post-war works by artists who have drawn boundless inspiration from cosmic observations, contemporary scientific theories, to the first step of man on the Moon.

Celestial Bodies pays homage to the decades of the space race that culminated in the lunar landing of 1969. The display will feature the groundbreaking compositions of Lucio Fontana's cuts and holes that reflects the artist's fascination in man's interstellar conquest. The Moon landing positioned the relationship between man and space in a new light, and Fontana predicted unprecedented artistic developments towards new creative frontiers in his *Manifesto Blanco*, 1946, which stated, 'The discovery of new physical forces, the mastery of matter and space, have gradually imposed unprecedented conditions on mankind.'

Selected works of Fontana's 'Concetto spaziale' from the 50s and 60s will be presented to highlight the artist's passion for interrogating space, and his investigation beyond the canvas with a bold manipulation of surface and matter.

Pursuing the infinite, investigating space and confronting science are key themes featured within this presentation. Also on display will be works by Giulio Turcato. An influential figure in the Italian world of post-war art, Turcato's painting was based on the expressive use of colour combined with a granular surface in which a dense opaque pigment was applied to the canvas. He started the series *Superfici Lunari* (Moon surfaces) in 1964 and exhibited them two years later at the Venice Biennale. Produced in oil and mixed media on rubber foam, the artworks are inspired by the preoccupation with the space conquest. On display will be exemplary works from the 60s and 70s that continue to explore a new spatial dimension, surface texture and allude to celestial space.

Alongside these, also presented will be 'extroflexions', the protruding shaped canvases by Agostino Bonalumi, (whose exploration of space was deeply influenced by Fontana), 'Superfici' by Enrico Castellani, *La Cometa*, by Fausto Melotti, *Cerchi Virtuali*, 1967, by Getulio Alviani's, a work that ultimately connects to the action of light on surfaces (which is also explored in astronomy). On display will be striking works by Alexander Calder and Gianfranco Zappettini, which will guide the eyes of the viewer towards different perspectives. Victor Vasarely will be represented by a striking geometrical work from his celestial 'Bellatrix Series' created during his Black and White Period of the late 50s. Such works as *Bella-Neg*, 1957, a short name for the Bellatrix constellation, reflects the artist's interest in the cosmos, during a period when he titled his artworks after stars and constellations.

Presented within a black booth, *Celestial Bodies* will bring together an artistic interpretation of the cosmos and explore the years of the space race - when the physical reality of the universe became tangible. Moreover, the display will aim to reflect an era in art where the works evoke a spatiality in metamorphosis and the visual translation of a geology of the future.

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. The historic Turin space, which occupies three floors of Palazzo Panizza, overlooking the city-centre Piazza Solferino, has since 2014 been flanked by the London gallery in the Mayfair art district. 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 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.

All exhibitions are accompanied by fully illustrated monographs, with authoritative critical texts. Under the leadership of Davide and Luigi Mazzoleni, in recent years Mazzoleni 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

Celestial Bodies: Mazzoleni at Frieze Masters 2019 | **Stand E14**
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Opening Days:

Wednesday 2 October (Preview – by invitation only).
Thursday 3 October – Preview – 11am - 8pm. Private view 5 – 8pm
Friday 4 October & Saturday 5 October – 11am – 7pm
Sunday 6 October – 11am – 6 pm

Address: MAZZOLENI, 27 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4HZ
Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat 11am – 5pm.
Admission: Free
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