

Press Release

Hans Hartung and Art Informel

1 October 2019 – 18 January 2020

Private View: Monday 30 September 6–8pm

Mazzoleni London is proud to present *Hans Hartung and Art Informel*, which will open to the public on the 1 October 2019 and continue until the 18 January 2020. Collating artworks from four decades, the London exhibition will focus on a selection of Hartung's paintings shown in context with early post-war works by some of the most important artists within the Art Informel movement of the 20th century. A further solo exhibition of Hans Hartung's work will open to the public at the Turin gallery on 25 October 2019 until 18 January 2020, a continuation of the gallery's interest in the artist, since presenting selected works by Hans Hartung in 2004. The exhibitions will mark the 30th anniversary of the artist's death.

Hans Hartung is a renowned figure within the Art Informel movement and of gestural abstract painting. The London exhibition will examine the origins of Hartung's work and investigate the discourse between the diverse circle of artists present in Paris during the 50s and 60s. Works by artists such as Giuseppe Capogrossi; Hisao Domoto; Jean Fautrier; Toshimitsu Imai; Henri Michaux; Georges Mathieu; Serge Poliakoff; Jean-Paul Riopelle; Gérard Schneider; Pierre Soulages; Wols and Zao Wou-Ki, will be presented with the aim to elucidate the artistic relationships which embraced tachisme and lyrical abstraction. The main section of the display will focus on works by Hartung from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s, moreover, will track the evolution of his particular visual language to reveal an artist who was continually striving for the unfamiliar and the original.

Experimenting with rapid movement, Hartung used 'grattage', a technique where freshly applied paint is removed by scraping in order to create dynamic works with intense marks. Often fields of colour invade the canvas, compounded by aggressive scratches, depicting tension between the background and the surface. Hartung commented,

'What I love is to act on the canvas. To act? That is to scratch, to tear, to stain, to invade the canvas with colour, in brief everything which is not "to paint".

The results are dramatic and timeless. The works displayed in *Hans Hartung and Art Informel* will bear witness to a time that challenged the very pillars of artistic tradition and laid the foundations of the birth of a new modern age. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay in English and Italian by Alan Montgomery.

About Hans Hartung

Hans Hartung was born in 1904 in Leipzig, Germany. He studied philosophy and art history at universities and academies in Leipzig and in Dresden. In 1935 he moved to Paris and during the Second World War, he joined the Foreign Legion. After the war, Hartung returned to the capital as a French citizen.

His first Parisian solo exhibition was held in 1947 at the Galerie Lydia Conti.

In 1948, Hartung participated for the first time in the 24th edition of the Venice Biennale, and in the succeeding 26th and 27th editions. He received the Guggenheim International Prize in 1956 and the Grand Prize for painting at the 30th edition of the Venice Biennale in 1960. In 1957, Hartung exhibited works at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Rome, alongside Lucio Fontana, Giuseppe Capogrossi, Alberto Magnelli and Giuseppe Santomaso. In 1966, the Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna (GAM) in Turin, presented a retrospective exhibition that brought together more than 180 works. The exhibition *Painting in France, 1900-1967*, opened in 1968 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, then toured to the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York, later to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, and finally established Hartung in the USA. In 1969, a major retrospective was organised at the Musée National d'art Moderne (now housed in the Centre Pompidou) in Paris. He was awarded the Grand Prix des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris in 1970. In 1984, a dozen large paintings dated from 1980-1984 were exhibited in the French pavilion at the 41st edition of the Venice Biennale. Hartung died in 1989 in the house that he named 'Champ des Oliviers' in Antibes, France. The villa is now home to the Fondation Hartung-Bergman, which promotes both his work and that of his wife Anna-Eva Bergman.

A major retrospective dedicated to Hans Hartung will open this year at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (from 11 October 2019 to 1 March 2020).

Notes for Editors

Exhibition: *Hans Hartung and Art Informel*

Dates: 1 October 2019 – 18 January 2020

Private View: Monday 30 September, 6–8pm

Address: Mazzoleni, 27 Albemarle Street, London, W1S 4HZ

Telephone: +44 (0) 207 495 8805

Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri 10am – 6pm, Sat 11am – 5pm. Admission: Free

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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.

Recent critically acclaimed exhibitions have included: *Enrico Castellani: La concretezza ritmica dell'infinito* (Turin, 2013) curated by Francesco Poli; *Bonalumi: Sculpture*, (Turin, 2014 and London, 2015) curated by Francesca Pola; a major *Alberto Burri* exhibition in 2015 with an introduction by Vittorio Brandi Rubiu; *Piero Manzoni. Achromes: Linea Infinita* (London, 2016) in collaboration with the Piero Manzoni Foundation and Mazzoleni 1986-2016. *30 Years of Art, 30 Italian Artists* – an important show on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Turin gallery – (Turin, 2016 and London, 2017) and *David Reimondo. The Muscle of Thought is the Brain* (Turin, 2019) curated by Gaspare Luigi Marcone; *Fontana/Melotti. Angelic Spaces and Infinite Geometries* (London, 2016) and *More than words...* (London, 2018) both curated by Daniela Ferrari; *Gianfranco Zappettini* (Turin, 2016), *Pittura Analitica* (London, 2016 and Turin, 2017) and *Michelangelo Pistoletto: Origins and Consequences* (London, 2018) both curated by Alberto Fiz; *Colour/Neon in Contextual Play, an installation by Joseph Kosuth* (London and Turin, 2017) curated by Cornelia Lauf and *Joseph Kosuth; Light in motion: Balla Dorazio Zappettini* (London, 2017) curated by Elena Gigli; *Equilibrium. An idea for Italian sculpture* (Turin, 2018 and London, 2019) curated by Giorgio Verzotti; *Massimo Vitali: Short Stories* (London, 2019) curated by Mirta d'Argenzio; *Nunzio: The Shock of Objectivity*, curated by Kenneth Baker.

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).

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