

"THE ITALIAN FLAVOUR"

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. IN MONTECARLO MAZZOLENI PRESENTED AN ARTISTIC PATH THAT ILLUMINATED AND ENRICHED THE BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS OF *STELLA DI MARE*.

During the Monaco Yacht Show 2018 the prestigious Italian art gallery, based in Turin with a branch in London, organized an exclusive art event on board *Stella di Mare*, the latest 40m construction by CBI Navi (See article page 132).

Mazzoleni has been working for over 30 years to offer an up-to-date and enticing overview of the modern and contemporary Italian art scene. Over the past three decades the art gallery has organised solo and group exhibitions of more than 150 prominent Italian and international artists from across the 20th century.

Entitled "**The Italian Flavour**", this selection of artworks, exhibited on board the new megayacht built by CBI Navi, and showcased as world premiere in Monte Carlo, was composed of works by nine artists, featuring a number of strands of Italian research from the 20th and early 21st centuries: thinking about materials, language and idiom of art and in art, colour as symbol and as a constructor of space, re-readings of the art of the past. Artists who have written pages in the history of European art and more recent generations are brought together by the *fil rouge* of the original contribution that Italian art has always made to the world, a genealogy that reaches back to the old masters, a creative flavour that illuminates and enriches the surrounding space.

A different approach to the interpretation

of the "space", always devoted to the Italian artists, was presented with the exhibition "**Equilibrium**", which the art gallery opened in October (up to January 2019) at its location in Turin. An idea for Italian sculpture curated by Giorgio Verzotti. The theme explored one of the constants of Italian sculpture that through the negation of its *pondus* open structurally to the surrounding space.

While following different paths, each artist arrives at a condition of equilibrium between the elements that physically make up the work: in this way, the fragility that is frequently a common denominator of these strands of research finds a strength capable of conferring stability.

Along with works by a number of recognised masters of Italian art, the exhibition also proposed more recent works, in many cases created specifically for this project, by some of the leading artists who have renewed the paradigms of contemporary Italian sculpture.

In December Mazzoleni returned to **Art Basel Miami Beach** to present works focusing on the "Arte Povera" movement, represented by three distinguished figures, Alighiero Boetti (1940-1994), Jannis Kounellis (1936-2017) and Michelangelo Pistoletto (b.1933).

The Italian conceptual artist, Alighiero Boetti, most famous for a series of embroidered works and investigations on language, conveying puzzles of short phrases, inverted sayings or wordplay, was exhibited at the show through his later embroidered works from the 90s and *Aerei*, 1983, an early biro on paper work, depicting aeroplanes on a striking red background.

For Jannis Kounellis the physical reality of the materials is important and he is known for using found objects such as iron, burlap, and even coal to powerful effect.

What animates the mirror paintings by the renowned artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, is the duality of a fixed photo image placed on the surface of a reflective steel plate and the moving images produced by reflections of the viewer and their environment. The performative element of the works is completed by the observer who becomes the central protagonist.

The works by Elio Marchegiani (1929) exhibited on board *Stella di Mare* during the Monaco Yacht Show. Courtesy Mazzoleni London - Turin





On board *Stella di Mare*
In this photo, the work by Agostino Bonalumi,
Rosso (Red), 2011, Courtesy Mazzoleni London - Turin

Artists shown at the event *The Italian Flavour*: Alighiero Boetti; Agostino Bonalumi; Piero Dorazio; Elio Marchegiani; Gianfranco Meggiato; Arnaldo Pomodoro; David Reimondo; Shigeru Saito; Gianfranco Zappettini.

Artists shown with the exhibition *Equilibrium*: Vincenzo Agnetti, Getulio Alviani, Giovanni Anselmo, Gianni Caravaggio, Alice Cattaneo, Paolo Cotani, Elisabetta Di Maggio, Luciano Fabro, Sergio Limonta, Filippo

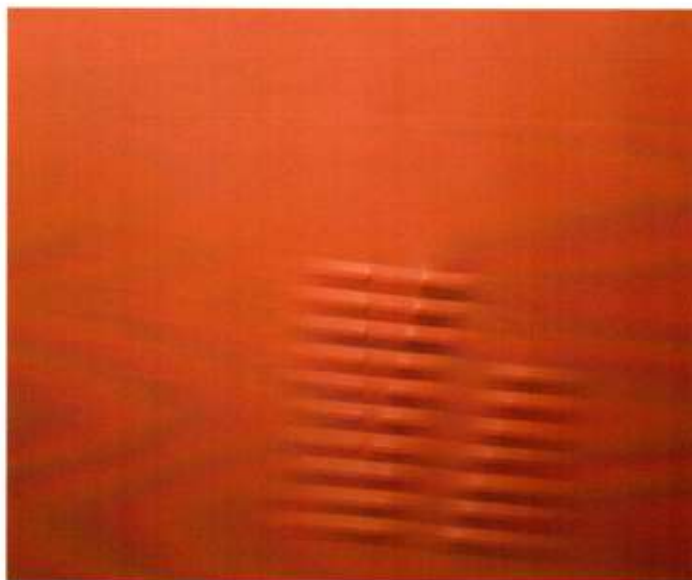
Manzini, Giuseppe Maraniello, Fausto Melotti, Hidetoshi Nagasawa, Nunzio, Shigeru Saito, Remo Salvadori, Luca Trevisani.

Artists shown at *Art Basel Miami 2018*: Alighiero Boetti; Agostino Bonalumi; Alberto Burri; Enrico Castellani; Lucio Fontana; Jannis Kounellis; Piero Manzoni; Fausto Melotti; Michelangelo Pistoletto.

The Gallery also presented the works by Lucio Fontana (1899-1968), best known for his revolutionary "Tagli" or "cuts", which consist of slashed, ripped or punctured canvases. Following the invention of the 'holes' in 1949, the founder of Spatialism broke the conventional notions of twodimensional painting in order to create a new kind of art, more appropriate for the age of space exploration and science. By investigating beyond the canvas, his "slashed" Tagli, became one of the most recognisable gestures of the Post-War era. This innovative conceptual act redefined the Italian artistic landscape and had a wide-reaching influence.

Alberto Burri (1915-1995) is renowned for utilising a host of everyday materials, such as burlap and plastic, transforming them via use of burns and lacerations into dynamic works on paper, canvas and celotex.

At Art Basel Miami, Mazzoleni presented a selection of exemplary works from his Cellotex and Combustione series, including Cellotex 1982. Defying the customary



Agostino Bonalumi, Rosso, 1985, Mazzoleni



Alighiero Boetti, Aerei, 1983, Mazzoleni

use of celotex as an industrial material, Burri created a large oeuvre of works where variations in composition, colour, volume, form and texture were meticulously and systematically researched. By discarding the traditional approach to painting and utilising raw artistic expression, Burri altered the way in which artists subsequently worked around the world. Throughout his career, Burri participated

Alberto Burri, Cellotex, 1982, Mazzoleni

in a succession of solo and group exhibitions at some of the most prestigious museums of the world including, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome, the Tate in London and the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris.

Agostino Bonalumi (1935-2013) also shared an interest in sculpting painting into the third dimension. He explored the plasticity of the canvas with his 'Painting-Objects', by experimenting with vinyl tempera across a riveted structure in his extroflexions, creating a rhythmic tension between form and light. On display were key works from the 50's and 60s.

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