

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS DUBAI

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# MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

A GREAT EXHIBITION IN ALL 8 GALLERIA CONTINUA LOCATIONS

SAN GIMIGNANO - I QUADRI SPECCHIANTI

HABANA - AMAR LAS DIFERENCIAS

LES MOULINS - 60 ANS D'IDENTITÉS ET D'ALTÉRITÉS

ROMA - COLOR AND LIGHT, THE LATEST WORKS

PARIGI - SEGNO ARTE

SAN PAOLO - IL CASO

BEIJING - QR CODE POSSESSION

DUBAI - IL TEMPO DEL GIUDIZIO

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## ROMA

### COLOR AND LIGHT, THE LATEST WORKS

23/06/2023 - 2/09/2023

Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 7pm

Galleria Continua is pleased to present in its exhibition spaces in Rome, inside the prestigious hotel The St. Regis Rome, *COLOR AND LIGHT, THE LATEST WORKS*, a new exhibition by Michelangelo Pistoletto. **This solo exhibition is one of the stages of a larger project that will travel the world, involving the eight locations of Galleria Continua**, each of which will host an exhibition by the artist throughout 2023, the year of the **Maestro's 90th birthday**. It is an **intercontinental project**, aimed at highlighting **Pistoletto's art in all its forms, from its genesis to today**. It will be the story of a journey through the

ages: the highlights of his career and the **long collaboration with the gallery**. Galleria Continua **celebrates him as one of the most important exponents of Arte Povera and contemporary art** with a succession of solo exhibitions **on a global scale**: from 27 May at Galleria Continua / **San Gimignano**; from 27 May at Galleria Continua / **Cuba**; from 3 June at Galleria Continua / **Les Moulins**; from 23 June at Galleria Continua / **Roma**; from 23 June at Galleria Continua / **Paris**; from 28 October at Galleria Continua / **São Paulo**; from 15 November at Galleria Continua / **Beijing** and from 18 November at Galleria Continua / **Dubai**.

The **exhibition that Michelangelo Pistoletto presents in Rome** brings together a **nucleus of new works included in the *Color and Light* series**. Starting in 2014, *Color and Light* continues to develop concepts first seen in the group of works titled *Black and Light* (on which he has been working since 2007) and **touches on themes that run throughout his entire oeuvre**.

In Michelangelo Pistoletto's work, **mirrors constitute an image of the world, both of men, society and of space-time**. "It seems clear to me that the space in which this reflection takes place is neither limited nor exclusively individual, but it is the cosmic space of the totality and therefore of everyone," says the artist. He continues, **"Breaking the mirror is equivalent to stopping the extension of space and time, and therefore of reality**. This is what happens with the photographic image fixed onto the *Mirror paintings*.

In this cycle Pistoletto introduces a **new element to the light mirror and the dark mirror: jute**. This material reconnects the mirrored surface to the canvas used in his early period as a painter using a painted jute canvas. These latest works perfectly represent a **meeting point in between** the beginning of the artist's research and the experience that he has acquired through the decades of his artistic career.

**In *Color and Light* the controlled breaking of the mirror creates a contemporary vision of the virtual nature of the reflected images and of the materiality of matter**. Pistoletto said of this series: "It is a work of broken mirrors but in an orderly manner. The outlines produced by breaking the mirror itself are included in the mirror, and these outlines form a puzzle. The large mirror is broken

and each piece takes on its own individuality. The universal figure of the mirror divides and multiplies with the breaking and cutting, becoming an innumerable quantity of single figures. **Each fragment of the mirror can be considered as a person who is part of a larger mirror, that is, society. Society is like a big mirror"**.

**Protagonist of the renewal of Italian and international art** in the crucial years of the 1960s, **tireless experimenter of the expressive potential of the most heterogeneous materials in a syncretism** that brings together the **classic and the contemporary** in an unprecedented **synthesis between reason and poetry**, last May Michelangelo Pistoletto was awarded the **title of Academician of Honour by the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples**. An excerpt from the award reads: "Pistoletto reiterates the dearest value for an academic community, that of the **training of young artists and the collective transmission of values** that are simultaneously creative and civil, that is, which place a **positive transformation of society and the very destiny of the Earth** at the centre of artistic and cultural action".

#### Artist's Biography

Michelangelo Pistoletto was born in Biella in 1933. He began to exhibit his work in 1955 and in 1960 he had his first solo show at Galleria Galatea in Turin. An inquiry into self-portraiture characterizes his early work. In the two-year period 1961-1962 made the first *Mirror Paintings*, which directly include the viewer and real time in the work, and open up perspective, reversing the Renaissance perspective that had been closed by the twentieth-century avant-gardes. These works quickly brought Pistoletto international acclaim, leading, in the sixties, to one-man shows in important galleries and museums in Europe and the United States. The *Mirror Paintings* are the foundation of his subsequent

artistic output and theoretical thought.

In 1965 and 1966 he produced a set of works entitled *Minus Objects*, considered fundamental to the birth of *Arte Povera*, an art movement of which Pistoletto was an animating force and a protagonist. In 1967 he began to work outside traditional exhibition spaces, with the first instances of that "creative collaboration" he developed over the following decades by bringing together artists from different disciplines and diverse sectors of society. In 1975-76 he presented a cycle of twelve consecutive exhibitions, *Le Stanze*, at the Stein Gallery in Turin. This was the first of a series of complex, year-long works called "time continents". Others are *White Year* (1989) and *Happy Turtle* (1992).

In 1978, in a show in Turin, Pistoletto defined two main directions his future artwork would take: *Division and Multiplication of the Mirror* and *Art Takes On Religion*. In the early eighties he made a series of sculptures in rigid polyurethane, translated into marble for his solo show in 1984 at Forte di Belvedere in Florence. From 1985 to 1989 he created the series of "dark" volumes called *Art of Squalor*. During the nineties, with *Project Art* and with the creation in Biella of *Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto* and the University of Ideas, he brought art into active relation with diverse spheres of society with the aim of inspiring and producing responsible social change. In 2003 he won the Venice Biennale's Golden Lion for Lifelong Achievement. In 2004 the University of Turin awarded him a laurea honoris causa in Political Science. On that occasion the artist announced what has become the most recent phase of his work, *Third Paradise*. In 2007, in Jerusalem, he received the Wolf Foundation Prize in the Arts, "for his constantly inventive career as an artist, educator and activist whose restless intelligence has created prescient forms of art that contribute to fresh understanding of the world."

In 2010 he wrote the essay *The Third Paradise*, published in Italian, English, French and German. In 2012 he started promoting the *Rebirth-day*, first worldwide day of rebirth, celebrated every year on 21st December with initiatives taking place all around the world. In 2013 the Louvre in Paris hosted his personal

exhibition *Michelangelo Pistoletto, année un - le paradis sur terre*. In this same year he received the Praemium Imperiale for painting, in Tokyo.

In May 2015 he received a degree honoris causa from the Universidad de las Artes of Havana in Cuba. In the same year he realizes a work of big dimensions, called *Rebirth*, situated in the park of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, headquarters of the UN.

In 2017 the text written by Michelangelo Pistoletto *Ominitheism and Demopraxy. Manifesto for a regeneration of society* was published.

In 2021 the *Universario*, an exhibition space in which the artist presents his most recent research, was inaugurated at *Cittadellarte*, and in December 2022 his latest book, *La formula della creazione*, in which he retraces the fundamental steps and the evolution of his entire artistic career and theoretical reflection, was published.

**Galleria Continua is located inside the prestigious hotel The St. Regis Rome with which, since 2018, it has presented works by international artists of the caliber of Loris Cecchini, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, Hans Op De Beeck and Ai Weiwei, to name a few. Together they also collaborate with the Città dell'Arte Fondazione Pistoletto with which they often host workshops and talks for school-age children. Since 2022 Galleria Continua has been an active part of Arte di Vivere, the festival dedicated to art, music and cuisine for the city of Rome organised by The St. Regis Rome.**

For further information on the exhibition and photographic material:  
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