

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

PARIS - SEGNO ARTE

BEIJING - QR CODE POSSESSION

DUBAI - JUDGEMENT TIME

SAO PAULO - IL CASO

DUBAI

JUDGEMENT TIME

25/11/2023 - 7/01/2024

Open every day | 11.00 am-1.00 pm | 2.00 pm-8.00 pm

Access to Burj Al Arab is by registration only

Register your interest here: www.galleriacontinua.com/reservation-dubai

Galleria Continua is pleased to present in its spaces in Dubai, at the prestigious Burj Al Arab Jumeirah hotel, a new solo exhibition by Michelangelo Pistoletto, *Judgement Time*. This exhibition is the final stage of a major project that crosses the world, involving the eight Galleria Continua locations, each of which has hosted an exhibition by the artist throughout the whole of 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's 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 of contemporary art with a succession of personal exhibitions on a worldwide 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 / Rome; from 23 June at Galleria Continua / Paris; from 15 November at Galleria Continua / Beijing and from 25 November at Galleria Continua / Dubai; from 29 November at Galleria Continua / São Paulo.

The *Mirror Paintings* in this show trace a fil rouge starting from Michelangelo Pistoletto's exhibition *Louvre + 1 Mirror Paintings* at Louvre Abu Dhabi, opened in November 2022 to celebrate

the museum's 5th anniversary, and on view until 17 December 2023. After Pistoletto's exhibition *Year 1, Paradise on Earth* at the Musée du Louvre, Paris in 2013, the artist decided to create new mirror works representing both images of the museum's visitors and those of ancient sculptures, thus creating a direct relationship with the works on display. This series of 11 mirrors was presented within the galleries of Louvre Abu Dhabi, interacting with the permanent collection and creating a dialogue between the two institutions. The Louvre interests Pistoletto for its social role as a universal museum, as a mirror on humanity and a multi-cultural meeting place. "The *Mirror Painting* fully incorporates the fourth dimension. In it, the flat surface that includes the reported and mirrored images is measurable in terms of height and width, so the work is obviously two-dimensional. The figure, isolated in the deep space of the mirror that surrounds it, takes on a three-dimensional relief, but the overall dimension of the work, which incorporates the previous ones, is the fourth dimension, that is, the time dimension. The *Mirror Painting* has the ability to introduce time into the traditional conception of the pictorial work of art, which we codify in instants, hours, days, months, years, centuries and millennia. All this enters the Mirror Framework. Therefore, in the work we see the occurrence of that phenomenon that we commonly call time" (Michelangelo Pistoletto, *The Formula of Creation*, published by Cittadellarte Edizioni).

The essential characteristics of the *Mirror Paintings*, as defined by the artist himself are: the dimension of time; the inclusion of the viewer and the surrounding environment in the work which thus becomes a "self-portrait of the world"; and finally, the conjunction of opposite polarities activated by the interaction between the motionless image on the plate and the continuous mutation of the image in the virtual space generated by the mirroring surface. The *Mirror Painting* offers a double perspective, which extends both in front of and behind us, capable

of projecting space-time into the virtual dimension of the work: a door that connects art and life.

Il Tempo del Giudizio (*The Time of Judgment*) uses the mirror as a repeated element aimed at creating the form of a temple in which Judaism, Catholicism, Islam, and Buddhism unite and create a dialogue with each other. With this work, art becomes a catalyst of all the meanings related to cultures of the present, religious and not. The artist declares, "Art takes on religion, meaning that art openly takes over the part represented by the structures that govern thought (such as religion); not with a view to taking their place, but to come up with a different system of interpretation as a substitute for them, one intended to enhance people's capacity to exercise independently the functions of thought." The relationship between Art, Spirituality and Politics is interwoven within these functions.

The works in this show retrace some of the fundamental elements of Pistoletto's oeuvre; the *Mirror Paintings* offer a "self-portrait of the world", uniting the observer and the environment, favouring the meeting of opposites and offering a perspective onto a fourth dimension, connecting the past, present and the future. *Il Tempo del Giudizio* (*The Time of Judgment*) creates a virtual space where art and life merge through its mirrors and symbology.

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.

For further information on the exhibition and photographic material:

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