

LA SOGLIA

20.09.2025 – 07.01.2026

Opening Saturday 20 September 2025 | 17.00 – 22.00

GALLERIA CONTINUA is delighted to present Michelangelo Pistoletto's solo exhibition, *La Soglia*. For over sixty years, Pistoletto has challenged the boundaries between art and life, inviting viewers to step into his reflective surfaces and become part of the artwork itself. Staying true to the artist's signature element the mirror the exhibition features a series of both new and recent works that highlight an ongoing, evolving investigation.

The exhibition presents a series of new works created in 2025 that mark a significant development in Pistoletto's long-standing project *Divisione e moltiplicazione dello specchio – L'arte assume la religione*, first conceived in 1978 through a seminal work and an accompanying reference text. In this new group of works, the artist explores the relationship between the real and the virtual dimension, between two-dimensionality and three-dimensionality, and the ever-central role of the viewer. In these pieces, a real object—frames or stretchers in triangular, rectangular, or *Segno Arte* shapes is applied to a mirror; the perception of the object changes according to the observer's point of view, in relation to the reflection and the surrounding space. The reflective element not only reproduces and visually completes the missing portion of the object but also invites deeper contemplation, encouraging self-awareness and reflection on one's relationship with the environment.

The concept begins with the idea that a mirror can reflect anything except itself. Yet, by cutting the mirror in two and sliding one half along the axis of division toward the

other, the mirror begins to reflect itself and multiply, creating a perspective that expands infinitely. This phenomenon underpins much of Pistoletto's work and thought, with the principle of division serving as a universal foundation for organic growth and, on a social level, as an alternative logic to accumulation and exclusion. Presented alongside this body of work is the series *Black and Light*, which introduces a distinct spatial and perceptual approach. Here, divided mirrors are placed in the corners of the room, and the entire surface becomes animated by shifting reflections of the environment and the viewer, exploring the dialectic between brightness and darkness within the mirrored image.

In the San Gimignano installation *Uno specchio rotto* (2025), framed mirror fragments are arranged on the wall, partially overlapping, visually recalling the 1981 work *Il disegno dello specchio*, which also featured framed mirrors some whole, some divided. Whereas the divided mirrors in the earlier work had clean edges, cut according to a precise design, the irregular shapes and edges of the mirrors in the new work and the title itself evoke an act of breaking and crushing. This contrast underscores the temporal distance between the two works and highlights the evolution of Pistoletto's practice within the long-running line of inquiry that began in 1978 with *Divisione e moltiplicazione dello specchio – L'arte assume la religione*.

About the artist:

Michelangelo Pistoletto was born in 1933 in

Biella, where he continues to live and work. In 1962, he created the *Quadri Specchianti*, which brought him international recognition. A participant in the New York Pop Art scene and a pioneer of Arte Povera, he produced the sculptural series *Oggetti in meno* (1965-66) and began his evolving series *Venere degli stracci* in 1967, both using everyday materials. That same year, he started organizing happenings and performances outside traditional exhibition spaces, and in 1968 he founded the interdisciplinary theater company *Lo Zoo*. In the 1990s, he established Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto, placing social change at the center of his practice. In 2023, he unveiled a series of new works incorporating QR codes and artificial intelligence technologies, coining the term *meta-work*. He has received numerous international honors, including the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale (2003), the Wolf Prize from the Wolf Foundation (2007), and the Praemium Imperiale for painting from the Japan Art Association (2013).

About the gallery:

Founded in 1990 in San Gimignano, Italy, GALLERIA CONTINUA has expanded its locations to Beijing, Les Moulins, Havana, São Paulo, Rome, and Paris. GALLERIA CONTINUA represents the desire for continuity between eras and the ambition to write a contemporary story. In thirty-five years of activity, thanks to its commitment to revitalizing and breathing new life into forgotten and unconventional spaces, the gallery has developed a strong and unique identity. Located within a former 1950s cinema-theater, GALLERIA CONTINUA San Gimignano has hosted numerous exhibitions over the years, offering artists the opportunity to create memorable site-specific installations and tailor-made exhibition projects for these distinctive and character rich spaces.

GALLERIA CONTINUA / San Gimignano

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From Monday to Sunday: 10 AM-1 PM | 2 PM-7 PM;
Starting from 03.11, from Monday to Sunday:
10 AM-1 PM | 2 PM-6 PM

For further information about the exhibition and photographic material:

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