

Press Release

Mazzoleni at TEFAF New York 2022

TEFAF New York 2022 | Park Avenue Armory, NY | Booth 335
VIP Preview: Thursday 5 May, 1pm – 8pm
Public Days: 6 –10 May 2022

Black & White

Alberto Burri | Lucio Fontana | Jannis Kounellis | Victor Vasarely

Mazzoleni is pleased to announce its participation in **TEFAF New York 2022**. The presentation will feature **black and white works** by major post-war artists with a special focus on the exceptional early oeuvre of one of the key founding fathers of Op Art, Victor Vasarely.

The main section of the booth will be dedicated to **Victor Vasarely's** so-called *Black and White* period from the 50s and 60s. Between 1951 and 1963, the artist explored the idea of antinomy between the two shades and developed a process by which he transferred black and white photographs on single panes laid over cinematic images. The results are rhythmic compositions, repetitive patterns, and optical illusions that bear witness to the artist's study and experimentation of a new geometric language as well as the perception of light on strongly contrasting surfaces. Vasarely claimed that the *Black and White* period acted as a "rejection of association to nature and science, to the advantage of an abstract art which plays on the ambiguity of forms and dimensions" (*Victor Vasarely*, Triennale Bovisa, Milan 2007-2008, p. 111) and compared his works to atoms of hydrogen with positive and negative components: a tension that brings the artwork to life. The series of works on display will testify of the eloquent manifestation of Vasarely's creative vision, at once rooted in the geometry of graphic design while manifesting the highly kinetic sensibilities of the emerging Op Art movement. The selection will include, among others, *Canopus II* from 1965, a captivating example of Vasarely's masterly symmetry, as well as a large emblematic *Zèbre* from 1951, one of the artist's most important works that inscribed his indelible mark on 20th century art.

The second section of the booth will feature Spatialism and Informal Art works by three of the most relevant artists on the Italian and European post-war scene. Two paintings from the 50s and 60s belonging to the *Concetto Spaziale* series by **Lucio Fontana** will explore the concepts relating to spatiality, whereas a striking *Nero Cretto* from 1978 by **Alberto Burri** will investigate the use of raw materials. Fontana's open slashes – the iconic synthesis of gesture, colour, and space that "give the spectator an impression of spatial calm, of cosmic rigour, of serenity in infinity" (E. Crispolti, *Lucio Fontana, Catalogo Ragionato di Sculture, Dipinti, Ambientazioni*, Vol I, Milan 2006, p. 105) – and Burri's cracked surface – resulted from a calibrated balance of industrial materials – establish a tension between conceptuality and physicality, echoing on the black and white monochromes. Finally, a work on paper by **Jannis Kounellis** belonging to the "alfabeti" (alphabets) series will conclude the presentation with its seemingly cryptic arrangement of letters and symbols: a disassembled

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language that reveal “the inner alchemy of the word.” (J. Kounellis, quoted in S. Bann, *Jannis Kounellis*, London 2003, p. 71).

MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni was founded in Turin in 1986 by Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni as a natural evolution of the private collection they started in the 1950s. Since 2014, the historic Turin space has been flanked by the London gallery in Mayfair.

Over the past three decades Mazzoleni has organised solo and group exhibitions of more than 200 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.

Under the leadership of Davide and Luigi Mazzoleni, the gallery 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).

NOTES TO EDITORS

TEFAF New York 2022 | Booth 335

Park Avenue Armory

643 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10065 (USA)

Preview (by invitation only)

Thursday, May 5, 2022, 1pm – 8pm

Public Days

May 6 – May 10, 2022, 12pm – 8pm

(May 8 and May 10 until 6pm)

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