

Mazzoleni at Frieze Seoul



Agostino Bonalumi, *Blu*, 1979. Shaped canvas and vinyl tempera, 100 x 100 cm.
Courtesy of Mazzoleni, London – Torino.

Frieze Seoul | COEX, Seoul | Booth M5

VIP Days (by invitation): 4 – 5 September 2024

Public Days: 6 – 7 2024

LUCIO FONTANA | FAUSTO MELOTTI | AGOSTINO BONALUMI | ENRICO CASTELLANI | NUNZIO | SALVO

London – For the third consecutive year, Mazzoleni will return to Frieze Seoul to present works by renowned Italian artists including **Lucio Fontana** (1899–1968), **Fausto Melotti** (1901 – 1986), **Agostino Bonalumi** (1935 – 2013), **Enrico Castellani** (1930 – 2017), **Nunzio** (b. 1954) and **Salvo** (1947 – 2015). Exploration of their work will focus on the construction of space, as well as the use of materiality and light to transform the canvas.

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Following the inaugural exhibition at Sorol Art Museum, South Korea, of **Lucio Fontana**'s work, works by Fontana will be presented in dialogue with that of **Fausto Melotti**. This dialogue engages with the friendship between Fontana and Melotti which began in 1928 when they were both students at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, under the mentorship of the sculptor Adolfo Wildt. The pair remained friends, sharing practical and creative support and thus their engagement with space and geometry is intertwined. Fontana's cuts pierce the surface, opening a new dimension behind the canvas, which is both a real space, liberated by the cut, and a transcendent one, accessed by the imagination. Melotti's sculptures, on the other hand, respond to movement and vibration, creating new spaces through interactions with their given environment.

Inspired by the work of Fontana, **Agostino Bonalumi** and **Enrico Castellani** continued the exploration into transcending conventional concepts of painting. Each work by Bonalumi is born out of a dialogue of internal pressures and external resistance with which the surface of the canvas opposes. *Blu* (1979) exemplifies some of Bonalumi's most notable shaped canvases, which through the intricate placement of "ribs" to the reverse of the canvas, extend into the third dimension, invading the viewer's space. Like Bonalumi, Castellani's work is focused on the sculptural aspects of constructing a painting and its transformation from a monochromatic two-dimensional surface to physical object.

Similarities can be drawn between these artists and contemporary artist **Nunzio**, who utilises a direct interaction with his materials, through meticulous shaping and manipulation to create a unified expression in his sculptures. A leading exponent and founder of the *Pastificio Cerere* (a former pasta factory) in the San Lorenzo neighbourhood, in Rome, Nunzio also won the 2000 Prize at the 42nd Venice Biennale for best young artist in 1986. Nunzio is a multi-faceted artist who draws from a variety of disciplines to develop his approach to artistic form beyond the visible. A key example of such is *Untitled* (2016) which employs Nunzio's most notable technique of combustion on wood, combined with blue pigment, where he interweaves substance, body and void into a balanced rhythm.

Complimenting the presentation, **Salvo**'s dreamlike landscapes use light and shadow to transport the viewer into hyper-saturated dreamlike and almost unreal worlds. This is reflected in works such as *Ottobre* (2001) where the viewer is led down a path into an autumnal valley, with golden light reflected off every surface.

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Opening on the final day of Frieze Seoul, the Italian Pavilion at **Gwangju Biennale** celebrates Italy's 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Korea. To mark the occasion the Italian Cultural Institute in Seoul has invited Soik Jung (artistic director of the Korean Pavilion at the 18th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2023) as the curator of the Italian Pavilion, with the project **Ministries of Loneliness** by **Rebecca Moccia**.

END OF RELEASE

MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni is a leading Post-War Italian and contemporary art gallery based in London and Turin. With over 35 years of activity, Mazzoleni focuses on a museum-calibre exhibition programme and participates in the main international art fairs, including Art Basel, Frieze, and TEFAF, as well as Artissima, Artefiera and Miart. Most recently, the gallery has expanded its reach towards new art scenes with its participation in Frieze Seoul, Art Abu Dhabi and Art Dubai.

The Mazzoleni collection is exhibited in museums and institutions worldwide, such as: the Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo in Paris; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington; The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg; Tate and the Estorick Collection in London, as well as Museo del Novecento in Florence, the GNAM in Rome, MADRE Museum in Naples, Triennale Milano and Palazzo Reale in Milan, and the Venice Biennale. Mazzoleni represents the Estate of Agostino Bonalumi.

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Gwangju Biennale | Italian Pavilion | Rebecca Moccia's *Ministries of Loneliness*
7 September – 1 December, 2024

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Gallery Hours: Mon – Fri: 10am – 6pm | Sat by appointment

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