



Fondazione  
Arnaldo Pomodoro

**MILAN**  
**AT THE FONDAZIONE ARNALDO POMODORO**  
**FROM 30 SEPTEMBER 2009 TO 7 FEBRUARY 2010**  
**THE FIRST SOLO SHOW IN ITALY OF**  
**CRISTINA IGLESIAS**

**The exhibition will present a series of 19 large-scale works by the Spanish artist, some made specifically for this event, providing a survey of the recent creative activity of one of the most original voices in international sculpture.**

From **30 September 2009 to 7 February 2010**, the exhibition spaces in Via Solari will present works by **Cristina Iglesias** (San Sebastián, 1956), one of the most original voices in international contemporary sculpture, in her first solo show in Italy.

The exhibition, curated by Gloria Moure, will feature a series of 19 works, some of them large-scale, obtained from her personal collection and from public and private collections such as the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (MNCARS) in Madrid, Fundación “la Caixa” in Barcelona and MoMA in New York, which provide a survey of Cristina Iglesias’s recent output. The exhibits range from the early nineties, with works such as *hanging ceilings*, *suspended pavilions* and *rooms*, to the present day, including works made specifically for this occasion. Two particular cases are *Fontana* (Fountain), conceived especially for this show, and a straw roof that will become part of the Foundation’s permanent collection.

The aim is to create an enormous labyrinth capable of generating an experience of invigorating magic in which there will be water, earth, light, the architecture of cloisters, narrow passages in bronze gardens made up of vegetation solidified and eternalized, living plants, shadows cast by alabaster surfaces, transparencies of coloured glass and many other items.

The exhibition will guide the visitor on a journey through the sculptures and spaces created by Cristina Iglesias, at the same time leading to a reflection on the visual art produced by the artists of the generation of the 1980s.

The vast exhibition space in Via Solari, a recycled industrial building designed by Cerri & Colombo, will house a large series of works mostly connected with the theme of the garden. Visitors will be able to explore passages, pergolas and alleys lined by walls of plants, losing themselves as they listen to the sound of water in a fountain invaded by vegetation and finding themselves again as they ascend from one level to another in the Foundation’s soaring space, coming to one different garden after another.

In her work this Spanish artist combines her interest in form, objects and materials inherited from the history of sculpture – from traditional work to Arte Povera – with her profound roots in the baroque tradition, where the boundary between illusion and reality disappears.

As Angela Vettese, director of the Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, says, “This artist touches on many overlapping themes. They include the role of nature in our life, nature’s ability to become a starting point for reflection by artists once again, and the use of techniques and materials that blend the ancient tradition of moulds and casting with the use of materials such as resin, braided steel cable, textured concrete, glass and

alabaster. One of the central ideas is Arcadia as the mythical but totally attainable encounter between human beings and nature, and thus between the natural and the artificial. The places conceived by Cristina Iglesias all lie in the area between these two extremes: they re-voke nature by means of designs taken from old tapestries or, more often, by reconstruction of plant patterns, mixtures of various essences, and casts of them become the source of an entire corridor.”

The Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro offers an unusual space for an artist who works with architectural elements, distorted perception and shadows cast upon the viewer, who becomes caught up in the language of a text not made to be read but to be passed through by the body and experienced with emotion.

Cristina Iglesias uses combinations of materials such as iron, cement, glass, resin, photographs and silkscreen prints in her work. Some of her recent projects in public spaces include the “hanging ceiling” that she made in the Conference Centre in Barcelona, a reflecting pool at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp, and the new entrance doorway in the Museo del Prado in Madrid, made in collaboration with the architect Rafael Moneo (2006–07)

The exhibition has been arranged in collaboration with the Spanish National Society for Cultural Action Abroad (SEACEX) and the Community of Madrid, and with the sponsorship of the Region of Lombardy, Culture, Identity and Autonomy of Lombardy and the Province of Milan, the partnership of Unicredit Group, and the contribution of Saporiti Italia and ATM.

In accordance with its mission of contributing to the appearance of the city and to initiatives aimed at enhancing it, IGPDecaux is supporting the promotion of the exhibition “**CRISTINA IGLESIAS il senso dello spazio**” by offering advertising panels in bus stop shelters in Milan.

### **Biographical notes**

**Cristina Iglesias** was born in San Sebastian, Spain, in 1956. She belongs to a generation of artists who since the late eighties and early nineties have brought about the expansion of the sculptural object into the realm of installation. In contrast with her “modernist” predecessors, Iglesias, whose work is mainly figurative, often evokes the female body, establishing relationships between it and commonly used objects such as furniture, rooms and architectural constructions. In her choice of materials Iglesias combines the use of cement, iron and glass with natural items such as bamboo, leaves and branches which often form the outer covering of her works. Her first exhibitions were presented in the 1980s, and since then she has had many solo shows, including Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2006), Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2003), Museu Serralves, Porto (2002), Museo Guggenheim, Bilbao (1998), Palacio de Velázquez / Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (1998), Guggenheim Museum, New York (1997), *One Room*, Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (1993) and Kunsthalle, Berne (1991). She represented Spain in the 42nd and 46th celebrations of the Venice Biennial (1986 and 1993).

Milan, August 2009

### **CRISTINA IGLESIAS**

#### ***Il senso dello spazio***

Milan, Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro (Via Andrea Solari 35)

30 September 2009 – 7 February 2010

Opening hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (last admission 6 p.m.); Thursday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. (last admission 9 p.m.)

Tickets: 8/5 euros

Catalogue: Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro/Ediciones Polígrafa S. A.

Brochure with pictures of the show at Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro

**Information:**

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