



ABC - ARTE
Contemporary Art Gallery

Via XX Settembre 11 A
Genoa 16121 - Italy

www.abc-arte.com



Arnaldo Pomodoro **To scratch, draw, write**

20 May - 14 October 2021

curated by Flaminio Gualdoni
with critical appreciations by Michele Robecchi and Federico Giani

On **20 May** ABC-ARTE in Genoa will inaugurate from **6:00 pm** the exhibition **Arnaldo Pomodoro. To scratch, draw, write**. The event will be in presence and in compliance of the Covid-19 restrictions at the time.

The exhibition, a joint initiative with the Arnaldo Pomodoro Foundation and sponsored by the Genoa Local Authority, will present some thirty important sculptures from the late 1950s to the present, reconstructing the long and passionate adventure of the artist in tracing inscrutable signs that become protagonists of the surface and of the form.

From the early *Tavole dei segni* of 1957 and 1960 to the memorable *Cronache*, 1976, from *Papiro I*, 1985-1986, from *Torre a spirale*, 1999 to the monumental *Arco*, 2000, to *Frammenti da "L'arte dell'uomo primordiale" di Emilio Villa*, 2004 and to *Colonne* and *Continuum X* of 2010, the sign is always a protagonist in Pomodoro's sculpture, which evolves in a flow of "signs not too distant from the symbol, but not too near either", as the artist Leonardo Sinisgalli wrote, to compose "a disturbing script that we feel to be dense with a new, almost magnetic fascination".

The exhibition is accompanied by a new bilingual ABC-ARTE edizioni monograph with an essay by the curator Flaminio Gualdoni and critical appreciations by Michele Robecchi and Federico Giani. This richly illustrated catalogue with images provided by the Arnaldo Pomodoro Foundation marks a further important stage in ABC-ARTE's survey of the great international postwar masters.

Arnaldo Pomodoro
To scratch, draw, write

20 May - 14 October 2021
mar-sab: 09:30-13:30 e 14:30-18:30
dom-lun: by appointment

ABC-ARTE
Via XX Settembre 11/A Genoa, IT
T.+39.(0)10.86.83.884
info@abc-arte.com
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Arnaldo Pomodoro short biography:

Arnaldo Pomodoro was born in Montefeltro in 1926, he spent his childhood and education in Pesaro. He lives and works in Milan since 1954. His works from the 1950s are high-reliefs where a unique and previously unknown sculptural "writing" emerged, variously interpreted by the most important critics. In the early 1960s he turned to three-dimensional work and focused his research into the solid geometric form: spheres, discs, pyramids, cones, columns, cubes - all in burnished bronze - are lacerated, corroded, excavated in their depths, with the intention of destroying their perfection and discovering the mystery closed within. The formal juxtaposition between the shiny perfection of their geometric shape and the chaotic complexity of their insides from now on becomes a constant in Pomodoro's production.

In 1966, he was commissioned to make a sphere, three and a half metres in diameter, for the Expo in Montreal. Now in front of the Farnesina in Rome, it marks his shift towards monumental sculpture. This was the first of several works by the artist placed in symbolically important public spaces: in many city squares (Milan, Copenhagen, Brisbane, Los Angeles, Darmstadt), in front of Trinity College, Dublin, Mills College in California, the Cortile della Pigna in the Vatican, opposite the United Nations in New York, at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, in the PepsiCo sculpture gardens in Purchase, and in those of the Storm King Art Center in Mountainville, just outside New York City.

He has made many environmental works, ranging from the *Project for the New Cemetery of Urbino* of 1973, excavated into a hill in Urbino, which was, however, never built, due to local issues and disagreements, and *Moto terreno solare*, a long concrete wall for *Il Simposio di Minoa* in Marsala, through to the *Sala d'Armi* for the Poldi Pezzoli Museum in Milan, *Entering the Labyrinth*, dedicated to the epic of Gilgamesh, which he completed in 2011, and *Carapace*, a wine cellar in Bevagna made for the Lunelli family.

Memorable retrospectives have consolidated his reputation as one of the most significant contemporary artists. His traveling exhibitions have toured throughout Europe, America, Australia and Japan.

He has dedicated himself to set design since the start of his activities and created "spectacular machines" for numerous theatrical works, from Greek tragedy to melodrama, from contemporary theatre to music.

He has taught in the art departments at various American universities: Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, Mills College. He has been the recipient of many prestigious awards: the Sculpture Prizes at the Biennials of São Paulo (1963) and Venice (1964); the Japan Art Association's 1990 Imperial Praemium for Sculpture, and the Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award from San Francisco's International Sculpture Center (2008). In 1992 he received a degree in the humanities honoris causa from Trinity College Dublin, and in 2001 an honorary degree in architectural engineering from the University of Ancona.

In 1995 he established the Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, which set itself the task of guaranteeing the conservation and the appreciation of his work, giving rise to a visionary idea: to create an inventive, almost experimental space for study and discussion on the themes of contemporary art, from the experiences of the avant-garde to the more recent perspectives, aiming at a profound and global involvement with people and society.

For further information on the artist's activity and work, please refer to his online Catalogue Raisonné.



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List of attached works:

1- *Tavola dei segni, 1960, X, 1960*
bronze, 48,5 × 32,5 cm
(Photo Pietro Carrieri)

2- *Torre a spirale, IV, 1999*
bronze, 105 × ø 30 cm
(Photo Giorgio Boschetti)

3- *Impronta da L'Arte dell'uomo primordiale di Emilio Villa, 2004*
bronze, 39,5 × 71 cm
(Photo Aurelio Barbareschi)

4- *Colonna 1, 2, 3, 2010*
bronze, 260 × ø 17 cm ciascuna
(Photo Dario Tettamanzi)

5- *Continuum X, 2010*
bronze, 80 × 198 × 35 cm
(Photo Dario Tettamanzi)

6- *Arco, 2000*
bronze, 210 × corda 510 × 20 cm (relief: 40 × 782 × 20 cm)
(Photo Paolo Magnussat Sartor)

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