

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

LA PACE PREVENTIVA

23.03 - 4.06 2023

Palazzo Reale,
Sala delle Cariatidi,
Milano

www.palazzorealemilano.it
www.cittadellarte.it

Michelangelo Pistoletto
"The Preventive Peace"
curated by Fortunato D'Amico
Palazzo Reale, Sala delle Cariatidi
from 23 March to 4 June 2023

PRESS CONFERENCE
Wednesday 22 March 2023 h. 11.00
Palazzo Reale, Conference Room

Press release

Palazzo Reale presents "The Preventive Peace", an exhibition-installation by Michelangelo Pistoletto especially conceived for the evocative Sala delle Cariatidi, open from Thursday 23 March to Sunday 4 June.

Promoted and produced by Comune di Milano Cultura, Palazzo Reale, Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto in collaboration with Skira, the exhibition is curated by Fortunato D'Amico and is part of Milano Art Week (11-16 April 2023), the widespread event coordinated by the office of the Councillor for Culture of the City of Milan, in collaboration with miart, which networks the city's main public institutions and private foundations dealing with modern and contemporary art through a dedicated programme of exhibitions and activities.

"The Preventive Peace" represents a long path to awareness developing inside the Labyrinth created by Michelangelo Pistoletto. Moving along a disorienting journey of search and discovery, visitors admire some of the main works created by the artist in the course of his career. The works trace the itinerary of awareness that allowed Pistoletto to gradually conceive "art at the centre of a responsible transformation of society", an expression that constitutes the mission of his foundation, Cittadellarte, active as a school in Biella since the 1990s. A change that is only possible, according to the artist, through a real practice of democracy that involves citizens and their organisations in processes of responsible social transformation.

The Labyrinth, formed by the progressive unrolling of corrugated cardboard over the entire surface of the Sala delle Cariatidi, emphasises the presence of the opposing duality between the monster and virtue. Fortunato D'Amico comments on this: "Inside the labyrinth is the monster, predatory madness, war. Its tortuous architectural structure is a complex of ideological walls, physical, economic, cultural barriers, open or closed doors articulated around a maze of entanglements that make orientation difficult. We must try to develop the ability to achieve virtue by moving away from the monster. It lives and exists in the labyrinths outside and inside us, but we cannot shy away from confronting it through a preordained action, conducted within its habitual residence. Only in this way we can annihilate it to establish the practice of Preventive Peace.

Una mostra

PALAZZOREALE



Comune di
Milano



In occasione di

Palazzo Reale member of

European  Royal residences

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

23.03 - 4.06 2023

LA PACE PREVENTIVA

Palazzo Reale,
Sala delle Cariatidi,
Milano

www.palazzorealemilano.it

www.cittadellarte.it

In our computerised age, labyrinths take on multiple aspects that conform to the realities of digital electronic engineering; processing and managing the information of the entire network of interconnected nodes that support communication channels. Their presence manifests itself through different, invisible forms that often escape even the most attentive critics' observation, which is perhaps why their impact on the planet has assumed gigantic dimensions.

Humanity has now at its disposal a formidable device to counter the monster and establish Preventive Peace: Michelangelo Pistoletto's Formula of Creation. It presents itself as a sign that simultaneously refers to the past, considers the present and projects into the future; it is a symbol, a mathematical expression capable of synthesising the individual and collective research conducted by the artist and his organisation, Cittadellarte, together with the Ambassadors of the Third Paradise. It is an instrument that transposed into numbers reveals that $1+1=3$, changeable into $Io+Tu=Noi$. You and I, indeed We, are all responsible for the society we create.

This is how Pistoletto recounts the birth of the Preventive Peace and the Third Paradise: "It was March 2003, when Bush and Blair, supported by several governments, declared preventive war on Iraq. I was deeply disturbed by this circumstance. All the cultural malformations inherited from the past were coming to the boil: the very concept of preventive war gave rise to the urgent need to counter with the idea of Preventive Peace. In history, peace has always come as a result of war and has been considered as its outcome, i.e. war hidden under the guise of peace and peace made up of mere appearance. I realised at that moment that I myself, in spite of my artistic, intellectual and practical commitment directed towards a responsible transformation of society, had to take a further step, even more decisive and effective, to contribute to the change of this humanity. This is how the sign of the Third Paradise was born".

Preventive Peace can only be achieved through the implementation of a praxis that involves and makes all citizens participate in the processes of transformation and regeneration of the planet, aimed at the introduction of a policy oriented at rebalancing the relationship between artifice and nature and promoting the culture of 'loving differences', without which it is not possible to get out of the labyrinth and get rid of the monster. Art at the Centre of Responsible Transformation encourages and activates the interaction of different sectors of society, from education to food, from architecture to fashion, from spirituality to politics.

Seventy years ago, in 1953, in the very Sala delle Cariatidi still wearing the signs of war caused by the second world conflict, Pablo Picasso exhibited his large canvas *Guernica*. In the context of the pictorial tale, we can glimpse the head of the Minotaur, the same monster that dominates the scene of today's labyrinth. In 1961, the Spanish artist drew the Dove of Peace, the same one that Manish Paul, a student from Vinci's Secondary School, winner of the "Educating to Peace: Leonardo, Picasso, Pistoletto" award in the 2014-2015 school year, would replicate, replacing the olive branch in its beak with the trinamic sign-symbol of the Third Paradise. Michelangelo Pistoletto has adopted Manish Paul's drawing to create the image-logo of The Preventive Peace. As early as 1969, Pistoletto designed his first Labyrinth at the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum

Una mostra

PALAZZOREALE



Comune di
Milano



In occasione di

Palazzo Reale member of

European  Royal residences

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

LA PACE PREVENTIVA

23.03 - 4.06 2023

Palazzo Reale,
Sala delle Gariatidi,
Milano

www.palazzorealemilano.it

www.cittadellarte.it

in Rotterdam. In the years that followed, the installation was presented in various other exhibitions, each time adapted to the different contexts.

The path of The Preventive Peace spreads from Palazzo Reale through Milan's labyrinthine urban grid with other installations in the city's three science museums. Pistoletto's works have been carefully selected for each venue to reflect the contents these institutions promote: the Civic Museum of Natural History hosts *Adam and Eve*, two historical works in silkscreen on supermirror stainless steel; a new lightbox version of the *Self-portrait of Stars* is exhibited at the Civic Planetarium Ulrico Hoepli instead; whereas the Civic Aquarium presents *Mediterranean Sea / Chairs Love Difference*, an artistic composition by Michelangelo Pistoletto and Juan E. Sandoval that deals with the theme of water and opens up to broad cultural, political and environmental issues concerning the Mediterranean area as well as the rest of the world.

Many other venues will host a series of thematic conferences during the months of the exhibition. Peace will this way become the leitmotiv of a cultural plan carried out within the social labyrinth, which helps avoid uncertainty when faced with the crossroads of decisions and take the road of harmony instead of the one that leads down the path of contrast and conflict.

Michelangelo Pistoletto was born in Biella (Italy) in 1933. In 1962 he created his first Mirror Paintings, with which he quickly achieved international recognition. He is considered one of the precursors and protagonists of Arte Povera with his *Minus Objects* (1965-1966) and the *Venus of the Rags* (1967). Starting in 1967, he performed actions outside traditional exhibition spaces which were the first manifestations of the 'creative collaboration' that he was to develop over the following decades, bringing together artists from different disciplines and increasingly broad sectors of society. In the 1990s, he founded Cittadellarte in Biella, placing art in relation with the different spheres of the social fabric in order to inspire and produce a responsible transformation of society. He has received countless international awards, including the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement from the Venice Biennale in 2003 and the Wolf Foundation Prize in Arts "for his consistently creative career as an artist, educator and activist, whose tireless intelligence has given rise to premonitory art forms that contribute to a new understanding of the world" in 2007. In 2013, the Louvre Museum in Paris hosted his solo exhibition *Michelangelo Pistoletto, Année 1 - Le paradis sur terre*. In that same year he received the Praemium Imperiale for painting in Tokyo. In 2022, his latest book *La Formula della Creazione* (The Formula of Creation) was published by Cittadellarte Edizioni. His works can be found in all major museums of contemporary art.

Official website: www.pistoletto.it

Una mostra

PALAZZOREALE



Comune di
Milano



In occasione di

Palazzo Reale member of

European  Royal residences

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

LA PACE PREVENTIVA

23.03 - 4.06 2023

Palazzo Reale,
Sala delle Cariatidi,
Milano

www.palazzorealemilano.it
www.cittadellarte.it

Information

Michelangelo Pistoletto "The Preventive Peace"
Palazzo Reale, Sala delle Cariatidi, Milan
open to the public from 23 March to 4 June 2023

Opening hours

Palazzo Reale

From Tuesday to Sunday h. 10.00 - 19.30

Thursday h. 10.00 - 22.30

last entry one hour before the exhibition closing time

Tickets

standard € 8

concessions € 6 (for 6 to 26 year olds and over 65s)

free for children under 6 years old

Press offices

IBC Irma Bianchi Communication

Tel. +39 02 8940 4694 - mob. + 39 328 5910857 - info@irmabianchi.it

texts and images downloadable on www.irmabianchi.it

Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto

Margherita Cugini

m.cugini@cittadellarte.it - mob +39 3496031888

City of Milan

Elena Conenna

elenamaria.conenna@comune.milano.it

Exhibition catalogue

Skira editore

Una mostra

PALAZZOREALE



Comune di
Milano



In occasione di

Palazzo Reale member of

European  Royal residences

**MICHELANGELO
PISTOLETTO**

LA PACE PREVENTIVA

23.03 - 4.06 2023

Palazzo Reale,
Sala delle Gariatidi,
Milano

www.palazzorealemilano.it

www.cittadellarte.it

Websites

www.palazzorealemilano.it

www.cittadellarte.it

Una mostra

PALAZZOREALE



Comune di
Milano



In occasione di



Palazzo Reale member of

European  Royal residences