Italian Cultural Institute of Cologne
Universitätstrasse 81, 50931, Cologne

Terra, fuoco, ferro, legno. Maria Cristina Carlini
Earth, fire, iron, wood. Maria Cristina Carlini

during the Italian semester of EU Presidency

curated by Martina Corgnati

1 July – 15 August 2014

Grand opening, Monday 30 June 2014

press release, 24.06.2014

On the occasion of the **Italian semester of EU Presidency**, the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the four **Italian Cultural Institutes** of **Cologne**, **Strasbourg**, **Zagreb** and **Tirana** are proud to present the exhibition of contemporary art *CONFINI*, *linguaggi, spazi, cose, persone/ BOUNDARIES, languages, spaces, things, people*, devised and curated by Martina Corgnati.
The artists involved, who will exhibit in the four Institutes on a rotating basis, are: Maria Cristina Carlini, Agostino Ferrari, Agnese Purgatorio and Donatella Spaziani.

Within this important artistic and cultural programme there is the solo exhibition **Terra, fuoco, ferro, legno/Earth, fire, iron, wood** by **Maria Cristina Carlini**, curated by Martina Corgnati, in Germany, France, Croatia and Albania. The first exhibition opens up at the Italian Cultural Institute of **Cologne** on Monday, 30 June, after which there will follow three important exhibitions in **Strasbourg** (1–22 September 2014), **Zagreb** (30 September – 30 October 2014) and **Tirana** (27 February – 31 March 2015) each one of them with a collection which is thought of *ad hoc* for each specific venue.

The Milanese artist is a prominent figure in the scene of contemporary Italian sculptural research: for many years passionately inquisitive of materials and their links and an interpreter of sculpture meant as a continuous exploration of elementary shapes, very often emerging from the very nature of the materials themselves. It is this, in fact, the *boundary* which takes form in her research, the one between nature and culture, form and sign, matter and hand. The *things* are **wood**, **sandstone**, **iron** and **corten steel** which the artist treats as the starting points of the continual and passionate adventure of form.

On exhibit there are about thirty **sculptural works**, chosen from the works made in the last twenty years, and about fifteen mixed-media **drawings** on paper, which reflect the first phase, essential for a sculptor, of conception and project. Among the displayed works stand out some beautiful “Crateri/Craters” made in sandstone and enamels of vivid colours, which bring up ancestral memories and form a point of contact among past, present and future; also the sculptures “Danza/Dance” and “Verso l’Infinito/Towards the infinite”, with soft and enveloping curves, both made of corten steel. The relationship and the contact with nature emerge in “Legni/Woods”, where a hint to the element is sensed thanks to the typical characteristics of the material: salvaged untreated wood; also in the installation in sandstone “Tronchi/Logs”, which is characterized by cylindrical curvy shapes, resembling trees moved by the wind, and in the small iron sculptures

named “Alberi/Trees”, bare, almost turned to stone, which denounce a conflicting relationship with the earth where man tends to dominate.
The important “Vittoria di Samotracia/Victory of Samothracia” highlights the study of shapes, of geometrical balances, which comes back also in works of small sizes such as “Porta/Door”, “Incontro/Meeting” and in the subjects portrayed in the abstract papers.

On display is the **video** premiere “Terra, fuoco, ferro, legno. Maria Cristina Carlini/Earth, fire, iron, wood. Maria Cristina Carlini”, made by Matteo Bernardini, where its several takes retrace the phases of the artistic expression of Carlini and show the sculptress at work in her workshop, as well as works already made: sculptures of medium and small sizes, as well as monumental ones which were on display in the anthological exhibition in Castel Govone in Piedmont. Also there is a thorough interview with the curator Martina Corgnati who goes deep into all the aspects of the artistic vision of the artist.
The video, subtitled in English, will be viewable in all the four expository venues in order to allow the public to get a deeper knowledge of the artistic value of Carlini.

Maria Cristina Carlini is one of the most important Contemporary Italian sculptresses, her artistic career includes solo and group exhibitions in several public and private, national and international, venues among which there are Paris, Madrid, Miami, Denver, Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai; her works are permanently on display in several cities in **Europe**, **America** and **Asia**.
Among the last exhibitions presented in Italy we must remember the solo ones at Villa Recalcati in Varese, at the Mudima and the Stelline Foundations in Milan, as well as the large anthological one *Fare secondo Natura/Do according to Nature* at the Govone Castle (Cuneo) with about a hundred works and the group exhibition at Gallerie d’Italia in Milan.

Details
Name Terra, fuoco, ferro, legno. Maria Cristina Carlini/Earth, fire, iron, wood. Maria Cristina Carlini
Curated by Martina Corgnati
Venues no. 4:

- **Italian Cultural Institute of Cologne** - Universitätstrasse 81, 50931, Cologne
  1 July – 15 August 2014, grand opening on Monday, 30 June
- **Italian Cultural Institute of Strasbourg**
  1 – 22 September 2014
- **Italian Cultural Institute of Zagreb**
  30 September – 30 October 2014
- **Italian Cultural Institute of Tirana**
  27 February – 31 March 2015

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