

# PAULA SEEGY

GALLERY

via San Maurilio, 14 – Milano

## UGO LA PIETRA. MY GARDEN.

October 24 – November 30, 2024

**Opening on Thursday, October 24, at 6 PM**

In the presence of the artist

**Tuesday, November 19, at 6 PM**

Preview presentation of the book "The Garden of Delights"

With Ugo La Pietra and Manuel Orazi

*press release, 15.10.2024*

Paula Seegy Gallery is pleased to present "My Garden", a solo exhibition by **Ugo La Pietra, a prominent figure in the fields of art, architecture, and design.**

The exhibition, open to the public **from October 24 to November 30, 2024**, features a corpus of 27 works, most of them **never seen before**, including acrylics on canvas, on wood, and works on paper. These result from the artist's research on the relationship between man and nature, focusing on urban and domestic gardens.

On **Tuesday, November 19**, during the exhibition, the gallery will host the **presentation** of Ugo La Pietra's **book** The Garden of Delights, published by Manfredi Edizioni. The artist and Manuel Orazi, author of the preface, will be present.

In the works on display, La Pietra explores the theme of the garden as both a real and symbolic space, a topic which is very dear to him. For decades, the artist has been conducting research that moves between the fields of visual art and design, maintaining a constant focus on environmental and urban themes. In particular, the exhibition reflects on the role of the garden as a place of refuge and contemplation; an oasis in the arid contemporary urban context on which man imposes his own laws of geometry and structure. The garden thus becomes a metaphor for the relationship between artifice and nature, order and chaos, in which human intervention seeks to define and dominate the laws of the environment itself. At the same time, as Ugo La Pietra states, it remains *"a destination for psychophysical rest, a place where spectacle and conceptuality can be cultivated simultaneously, a space organized for pleasure, an expression of the superfluous, synonymous with 'paradise', a paradigm of timelessness and universality."*

In this regard, the series "The Garden of Delights" (2020) evokes the idea of that "paradisiacal" garden as a mental space in which human intervention blends harmoniously with the surrounding environment.

Among the most emblematic works is the "Gazebos" series from 2023-24, such as "Forest Little House" and "Gothic Gazebo", which portrays small shelters immersed in greenery, where architectural artifice marries natural elements.

A clear interweaving of imagination and design rigor emerges between poetry and pragmatism, a play between geometry and the unpredictability of nature. Through his

language, Ugo La Pietra invites us to look at the garden from different perspectives, as a place of aesthetic pleasure and a space for reflection on the dynamics between man and the environment.

The exhibition is accompanied by the **publication** "My Garden", published by Paula Seegy Gallery, with an introduction by Ugo La Pietra, critical texts by Marco Meneguzzo and Simona Bartolena, and images of all the exhibited works.

**Biographical notes.** Ugo La Pietra was born in Bussi sul Tirino (Pescara) in 1938. Originally from Arpino (Frosinone), he lives and works in Milan, where he graduated in Architecture from the Milan Polytechnic in 1964. As an architect, artist, filmmaker, editor, musician, cartoonist, and teacher, he is involved in research in communication and visual arts, moving simultaneously between the fields of art and design. A tireless experimenter, he has crossed various currents, from Sign Painting to Conceptual Art, from Narrative Art to auteur cinema, and used multiple media. He has conducted research that has materialized in the theory of the "Unbalancing System" - an autonomous expression within Radical Design - and in important sociological themes illustrated in exhibitions such as "The Telematic House" (MoMA New York, 1972 - Milan Fair, 1983), "Relationship between Real Space and Virtual Space" (Milan Triennale 1979, 1992), "The Neo-Eclectic House" (Abitare il tempo, 1990), "Bathing Culture" (Cattolica Cultural Centre, 1985/95). He has exhibited his work in Italy and abroad in major artistic venues and events, including the Milan Triennale, Venice Biennale, Lyon Museum of Contemporary Art, FRAC Museum in Orléans, Faenza Ceramics Museum, Ragghianti Foundation in Lucca, Mudima Foundation in Milan, MA\*GA Museum in Gallarate.

[www.ugolapietra.com](http://www.ugolapietra.com)

### **Details**

**Title** Ugo La Pietra. My Garden.

**Dates** October 24 – November 30, 2024

**Opening** Thursday, October 24, 6 PM

**Book presentation** The Garden of Delights (Manfredi Edizioni)

**Date** Tuesday, November 19, 6 PM

**Speakers** Ugo La Pietra and Manuel Orazi

**Venue** Paula Seegy Gallery - via San Maurilio 14, Milan

**Opening Hours** Tuesday to Saturday, 12 PM - 7 PM

**Free entry**

**Organization** Ugo La Pietra Archive

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