Municipality of Pisa

Gianfranco Meggiato Il Respiro della Forma - The Breath of Form

curators: Riccardo Ferrucci & Alessandro Romanini

22 October - 4 December 2022

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A major exhibition of monumental sculpture, on view in public spaces throughout the city of Pisa, animates a lively interaction between ancient and contemporary art.
Commissioned and hosted by the Municipality of Pisa from 22 October to 4 December, 2022, *Gianfranco Meggiato. Il respiro della forma* [Gianfranco Meggiato: The Breath of Form] presents fourteen large-scale works located across **Pisa's historic centre**, together with an important solo exhibition in the evocative church of **Santa Maria della Spina**. The sculptures further explore Meggiato's aesthetic philosophy, establishing a rapport between visitors and the environment that encourages reflection and awareness, and launches a strong message of peace.

Curated by Riccardo Ferrucci and Alessandro Romanini, the exhibition explores human physical and spiritual frailty, as well as the positive life force that compels each human being to survive and evolve. These concepts embodied in Meggiato's work are ideally linked to Pisa, in particular to its most famous symbol, the Leaning Tower, a universal emblem of resilience, whose apparent instability and fragility serve as a metaphor for the human condition.

The exhibition is an initiative by the **Municipality of Pisa** with the patronage of the **Region of Tuscany**. It is organised by the C.R.A. cultural association (Centro Raccolta Arte) in collaboration with Casa d'Arte San Lorenzo.

Meggiato's long-term concern with social issues, including the struggle against organised crime, human cooperation and violence against women, is expressed in his work through the concept of *introscultura*. He invites us to direct our attention to the interiority of the work: to go beyond the sinuous external surfaces and discover ourselves and our own inner sphere.

Lo Specchio dell'Assoluto [The Mirror of the Absolute], installed in Piazza dei Miracoli, is a gateway to another dimension that connects humanity to the universe and encourages a contemplative vision that communicates with the symbolic themes of the surrounding historical monuments. In Piazza dei Cavalieri, site of the Scuola Normale di Pisa, stands the 5-metre-high *L'Uomo Quantico* [Quantum Man], a representation of a 'new human' heading toward the future. The individually made elements have been assembled to reflect the latest theories in quantum physics. San Paolo a Ripa d'Arno provides the stage for *Oltre* [Beyond]: a white angel-like form encircling a sphere that urges us to abandon materiality and follow it.
The church of **Santa Maria della Spina**, an important example of Pisan Gothic architecture, houses eleven medium-sized works that stimulate reflection and greater awareness.
Most of Meggiato's sculpture can be viewed in the round, creating a movement of alternating solids and voids which the artist describes as the 'breath of the works'.
Gianfranco Meggiato considers each life to be connected to all others. He explores their origin, convinced that we are all cells of the same organism. *Germinazione* [Germination] is a chain of intertwining elements that grow together and lead back to the origin of existence. *Dio è Madre* [God is Mother] in the form of an egg, the symbol of birth, is composed of numerous vibrating,

multiform rings surrounding three spheres, which, according to Meggiato, constitute the human essence of rationality, instinct and soul. *Mondo Interiore* [Inner World] urges us not to allow events to overwhelm us but to find the courage to listen to our own self and not settle for appearances.

The exhibition presents an opportunity to visit the fascinating historic centre of Pisa and discover the art of Gianfranco Meggiato.
L'Uomo Quantico - Quantum Man, **Piazza dei Cavalieri**; *Sfera Quantica - Quantum Sphere*, **Church of Santa Maria della Spina**, Lungarno Gambacorti; *Lo Specchio dell'Assoluto - The Mirror of the Absolute*, **Piazza dei Miracoli**; *Oltre - Beyond*, **Church of San Paolo - Ripa d'Arno**; *Triade - Triad*, **Via Santa Maria - Piazza Cavallotti**; *Cubo con Cubo - Cube with Cube*, **Piazza San Matteo** in front of the Museum; *Il Soffio della Vita - The Breath of Life*, **Cloisters of the Jesuits**, Scuola Superiore di Sant'Anna, **Piazza Martiri della Libertà**; *Anima Latina - Latin Soul*, **Corso Italia**, from Piazza Vittorio Emanuele; *Doppio Totem - Double Totem*, **Corso Italia, corner of Via Toselli**; *Taurus*, **Lungarno Simonelli**, pedestrian area around the Museum of Ships; *Sfera Sirio - Sirius Sphere* and *Il Mio Pensiero Libero - My Free Thinking*, **Piazza Terzanaia**; *Sfera Antares - Antares Sphere*, **Church of San Michele in Borgo**, Borgo Stretto; *Disco Tensione - Tension Disc*, **Piazza XX Settembre**.

The closure of the exhibition will be marked by the presentation of an important bilingual (Italian and English) **book,** published by Editoriale Giorgio Mondadori and edited by and with contributions from Riccardo Ferrucci and Alessandro Romanini. The volume will also include commentaries by prominent figures from the world of art and culture and a personal statement by the artist.

Gianfranco Meggiato was born in Venice in 1963, where he attended the State Institute of Art and studied sculpture in stone, bronze, wood and ceramics. There is a glance at the great masters of the XX century - such as Brancusi for his research into essentiality, Moore for the internal-external relationship with motherhood, and Calder for the way his works open into space. An artist of International status since 1998, Meggiato has taken part in exhibitions and art fairs in Italy and around the world: USA, Canada, Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Holland, France, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Montecarlo, Ukraine, Russia, India, China, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, South Korea, Singapore, Taipei, Hong Kong and Australia. In particular, in 2011 and 2013 he was invited to take part in the Italian pavilions at the Venice Biennial. As of 2017, his work focused on scientific and social issues through large installations set up in public places: "*Il Giardino delle Muse Silenti - The Garden of the Silent Muses*" (Catanzaro 2017) stood as a symbolic defence of values and culture against terrorism. "*La Spirale della Vita - The Spiral of Life*" (Palermo 2018) as part of the "Manifesta 12" event dedicated to the innocent victims of the mafia; "*Il Giardino di Zyz - The Garden of Zyz*" (Matera European Capital of Culture 2019) sought to be a meeting point between contrasting cultures. "*L'Uomo Quantico, non c'è futuro senza memoria - Quantum Man, there is no future without memory*" (Valley of the Temples, Agrigento, 2021) - a major solo exhibition of monumental works combining archaeology, philosophy and quantum physics; "*La Spirale della Vita - The Spiral of Life*" (Prato Local Council and Pecci Museum, 2022) again highlighted the installation dedicated to victims of the mafia.
These installations earned the ICOMOS-UNESCO AWARD "for the masterful combination of ancient and contemporary in sculptural installations of imposing evocative power and aesthetic value" Gianfranco Meggiato lives and works in Gran Canaria.
www.gianfrancomeggiato.com

Exhibition details
Title Gianfranco Meggiato. Il Respiro della Forma - The Breath of Form
Curators: Riccardo Ferrucci & Alessandro Romanini
Location Church of Santa Maria della Spina and the historic centre of Pisa
Event dates 22 October - 4 December 2022
Exhibition dates - Church of Santa Maria della Spina 22 October - 20 November 2022
Exhibition opening times: Wednesday-Friday 15.00-19:00. Saturday, Sunday and holidays: 10.00-13.00; 15 - 19

Public info and event management: Casa d'Arte San Lorenzo tel. +39 057143595
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Organisation C.R.A. Centro Raccolta Arte

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