

San Fedele Gallery

Milan, Italy

**Il movimento nucleare
The nuclear movement**

curated by Martina Corgnati

18 September - 31 October 1998

On Thursday 17 September 1998 the exhibition **Il Movimenfo Nucleare/The Nuclear Movement** will open at the San Fedele Gallery of Milan.

The exhibition, organized by the Credito Artigiano and curated by Martina Corgnati, becomes the most thorough exploration of this important movement which had a central role in the Italian artistic culture of the postwar period and was founded in Milan by Enrico Baj, Sergio Dangelo and Joe C. Colombo in 1951.

Milan is the last stop of a journey that brought the exhibition first to Sondrio, at Palazzo Sertoli, Palazzo Pretorio and Palazzo Martinengo from March to May 1998, and later to the Rocca di Umbertide (Perugia) in July and August. Ending up in Milan at the San Fedele Gallery, the nuclear movement reconnects with its origins: in 1951 it started off with the exhibition of Enrico Baj and Sergio Dangelo at the first site of the San Fedele Gallery (then located on the square with the same name).

The exhibition at the San Fedele Gallery doesn't want to be the exact copy of the one in Sondrio and at the Rocca di Umbertide, but appears as a historical-documentary exhibition, focusing on the beginning of the Nuclear Movement from 1951 to 1952. During the years the San Fedele Gallery, closely linked to the birth and development of the nuclear movement, has promoted meetings, debates and exhibitions related to the activities of the Group (it is especially worth mentioning their exhibition *Arte Nucleare/Nuclear Art* of 1957); in 1980 they had also organized the retrospective *Arte Nucleare 1951-1957/Nuclear Art 1951-1957*, curated by Giovanni Anzani, the only important prior event to today's exhibition.

On show there will be about 60 works, among which there are paintings, works on paper, ceramics and sculptures (as well as several documents, letters and original posters), made between 1951 and 1959 by Enrico Baj, Joe Colombo, Sergio Dangelo, Giuseppe Allosia, Gianni Bertini, Lucio Del Pezzo, Gianni Dova, Asger Jorn, Yves Klein, Lanfranco, Piero Manzoni, Leonardo Mariani Travi, Antonio Recalcati, Pino Serpi, Ettore Sordini, Serge Vandercam and Angelo Verga.

On this occasion Enrico Baj reproduces with extreme accuracy the BUM manifesto of 1952 and the famous and amazingly up-to-date bones sculptures, made in the same year together with Joe G. Colombo, which since have been lost due to the perishability of the material they used.

The exhibition wants to highlight not only the beginnings of the Movement (from 1951 to around 1953), but also the development of the artistic activities of its main characters, the relevant

supporters through all the 50s and the important international contacts, of which a significant example is Yves Klein, an artist who in 1957 exhibited in the show *Arte Nucleare/Nuclear Art*, at the San Fedele Gallery. The exhibition aims at stressing how the nuclear artists, the true heirs of Surrealism, were the only ones in Italy in continuous contact with the European neo-avantgardes, from the lettrist artists to the representatives of the Cobra group.

The exhibition is the third one of a series of five exhibitions dedicated to the 50s in Milan, *Arte a Milano 1946-1959/Art in Milan 1946-1959*. The series, which started in February 1997 with the exhibition *Reale, Concreto, Astratto. Dal Postcubismo all'Ultimo Naturalismo/Real, Concrete, Abstract. From Post-cubism to the Last Naturalism*, continued on until July of the same year with *MAC e dintorni (Movimento Arte Concreta)/MAC and such (Concrete Art Movement)* and, after the exhibition *Il Movimento Nucleare/The Nuclear Movement*, it will continue with a show on *Il Movimento Spaziale/The Spatial Movement* in October 1998. The series will end with *Il Realismo Esistenziale/The Existential Realism* in 1999.

The catalogue, published by Credito Artigiano, includes an essay by Martina Corgnati, the reproductions of the works on show, several documents and materials never seen before up until today and critic-bibliographical files of all the displayed works curated by Emma Gravagnuolo, as well as other bibliographical texts.

Venue: San Fedele Gallery, Via U. Hoepli 3 a/b, Milan, Italy

Press office: Irma Bianchi Comunicazione