

PAULA SEEGY

GALLERY



PAULA SEEGY GALLERY

Via San Maurizio, 14 – Milan

Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki

curated by Luigi Sansone

5 February – 19 March 2026

Opening Thursday, 5 February 6 pm

press release, 28.01.26

The **Paula Seegy Gallery** in Milan presents the exhibition “**Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki**”, curated by **Luigi Sansone**, on view from **5 February to 19 March**. Dedicated to contemporary sculpture, the group exhibition brings together artists who for years have pursued a rigorous and personal investigation of matter. **Wood, copper, iron, steel and glass** become instruments of knowledge—living organisms shaped by time, memory and energy.

On view are works by **Gabriella Benedini**, who entrusts wood—often reclaimed and already marked by a previous life—with the task of recounting stories of transformation and rebirth; by **Pietro Coletta**, who identifies in copper a vital and alchemical principle, capable of releasing light, warmth and spiritual balance; by **Salvatore Cuschera**, who bends and stretches iron until it becomes surprisingly dynamic and unstable; by **Riccardo De Marchi**, who treats steel as a surface to be crossed, excavated and opened, transforming it into a field of signs and rhythm; and by **Izumi Ōki**, who chooses glass to construct architectures of light and transparency, in which form and spirituality coincide.

The exhibition brings these five experiences into dialogue within a unified itinerary, revealing sculpture as a practice of listening to matter and as a space of encounter between the visible and the invisible.

The exhibition project ideally situates itself within a line of continuity with the major experiments of the historical avant-gardes of the twentieth century, particularly **Futurism**—the first artistic movement to conceive art as a total intervention in life and to introduce a free and innovative use of materials. From Balla’s and Depero’s “*complessi plastici*” to Boccioni’s reflections on the destruction of the traditional nobility of marble and bronze, matter becomes a vehicle for dynamism, energy and vision. It is precisely this spirit of research that continues to animate the work of the artists featured in the exhibition today.

Gabriella Benedini works with wood as an archetypal material, a bearer of memory and time. Reclaimed materials, often sourced from boat planking, retain traces of a previous life that the artist does not erase but transforms. In the sculptures *VeLe* (2024–2025), one black and one white, lived matter opens onto a symbolic and spiritual dimension: concave forms driven by the wind, a metaphor for an inner journey beyond physical reality. The yin/yang duality, the theme

of continuous transformation, and a profound respect for nature make Benedini's work a poetic reflection on time, rebirth and the energy that endures within matter.

Copper is instead the elective material of **Pietro Coletta**, chosen for its powerful symbolic and alchemical value. A metal associated with vitality, light and spiritual balance, copper in his sculptures becomes a sensitive surface, capable of capturing and reflecting the energy of fire. Through burnings, oxidations and juxtapositions with wood, iron and glass, Coletta investigates the relationship between light and shadow, the real and the virtual, matter and transcendence. Works such as *Soglia*, *Dardo di Zeus* and *Incanto* take shape as symbolic portals—thresholds between the visible and the invisible—where sculpture becomes an expression of the soul.

Salvatore Cuschera uses iron to create taut, dynamic forms held in a precarious balance. His deep knowledge of forging and welding techniques allows him to transform a heavy and resistant material into structures that seem to challenge gravity. In works such as *Fuori diagonale* and *Tavola del deserto*, iron takes on symbolic meanings: passages, thresholds, archetypes linked to birth, journey and spirituality. Void, air and the internal space of the sculptures become essential constructive elements, contributing to a reflection on the balance between order and disorder, strength and lightness.

Riccardo De Marchi's research is founded on a gesture that is both elementary and radical: the hole. For over forty years, the artist has incised, perforated and modulated surfaces of steel, aluminum and plexiglass, constructing a personal language based on point, line and plane. His works evoke ancient writings, geoglyphs, musical scores and natural phenomena, generating rhythmic sequences of voids and solids. De Marchi's "holes" are not absences, but openings toward another space—an invitation to look beyond the surface in order to grasp the hidden order of reality.

With **Izumi Ōki**, matter becomes light. Her sculptures, made exclusively of glass, amplify space and engage in dialogue with architecture through transparency, refraction and luminous rhythms. Form arises from an inner necessity and translates into essential structures imbued with spirituality. Works such as *Pensiero danzante*, *Onda architettonica* and *Torre cattedrale* transform glass into a poetic medium capable of uniting lightness, energy and harmony, evoking a cosmic vision in which chaos and order find perfect balance.

The gallery, in collaboration with the Archivio Giacomo Benevelli, as part of the **Milano MuseoCity** project, presents the work by **Giacomo Benevelli** *Liason #100*, created in Carrara marble.

The exhibition takes shape as an intense and coherent journey, in which contemporary sculpture reasserts its role as a space for research, knowledge, and vision. Different materials and sensibilities converge in a single tension toward the profound essence of matter and artistic practice.

Exhibition details

Title Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki

Curated by Luigi Sansone

Venue Paula Seegy Gallery, via San Maurilio 14 – Milan

Dates 5 February – 19 March 2026

Opening Thursday, 5 February, 6 pm

Opening hours Tuesday to Saturday, 12 pm – 7 pm

Admission Free

Info paula@paulaseegygallery.com – mob. +39 340 4215312 – www.paulaseegygallery.com

Press office

IBC Irma Bianchi Communication

Via Arena 16/1 – Milan

Irma Bianchi mob. +39 335 8315232

tel. +39 02 8940 4694 – info@irmabianchi.it

Texts and images available at www.irmabianchi.it