



BEFFROI - PLACE DU LOUVRE

Mairie du 1er arrondissement, 4 Place du Louvre, Paris

Maria Cristina Carlini
Origine

curated by Carla Arigoni

21 March - 12 April 2019
opening Wednesday 20 March, 6pm

press release, 29.01.2019

In the heart of Paris from 21 March to 12 April, the historic **Beffroi** in **Place du Louvre** will host the **imposing work** “Origine” of sculptor Maria Cristina Carlini, **expressly created for the exhibition** curated by Carla Arigoni.

The large stoneware installation, composed of seven columns of varying heights, rises to **over three metres**, with a modular overhang to evoke the music of creation. The columns recall ancient temples, primordial dances and sounds that convey viewers back to the origins of life and at the same time forward, towards the light of the near future.

Hundreds of stoneware circles mounted on an iron core rise from the ground to form a monumental creation that highlights the close connection between humankind, earth and sky, within an **anthropological perspective** recognisable throughout the artist’s entire production.

Indeed, the rationale for Maria Cristina Carlini’s work centres on the origin and evolution of the universe and on the four elements - Air, Water, Earth and Fire - constant themes in her powerfully expressive art, where minerals, plants and animals - humans included - are always perceived as united by strong bonds and a reciprocal equilibrium.

Maria Cristina Carlini creates her sculptures by hand, working in absolute harmony and respect for nature. Carlini colours, combines and shapes her work from materials from the seabed, petrified forests, volcanic dust and natural oxides and minerals. Devoid of any elements that might offend or harm nature, her work celebrates the Earth’s beauty, revisits its origins, and sends a message of positive energy for the survival of every ecological aspect of the planet.

The exhibition design, conceived by Anna Mari and located inside the bell tower, welcomes visitors to an environment that stimulates reflection on the past, present and future, and on the importance of taking action to protect humankind within the context of the Earth, our host.

Biographical notes. Italian sculptor Maria Cristina Carlini has nurtured her passion for ceramics since her early years. It has accompanied her throughout her life and was her point of departure in investigating a range of materials, such as iron, sheet metal, recycled wood, resin and glass.

In the early 1970s she moved to Palo Alto, California, where she attended the California College of Arts and Crafts. Later she lived in Brussels, where she continued to experiment with clay-related techniques, pursuing this direction further on her return to Italy.

Her strength lies in her consistent use of clay. Highly representative of her work are the monumental sculptures in which **iron and stoneware combine** to create a **very personal and indissoluble union**.

Maria Cristina Carlini's work has received notable acclaim: she has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in various public and private international venues, and **her monumental sculptures are on permanent display** in three continents: **Europe, America and Asia**.

Her most recent permanently installed major work is the ten-metre-high *La nuova città che sale* [The New Rising City], located at the Milan Rho Fair and presented by Philippe Daverio for Expo 2015.

Numerous books have described Maria Cristina Carlini's intense artistic activity, and renowned critics have written about her work, among them Luciano Caramel, Guo Xiao Chuan, Martina Corgnati, Gillo Dorfles, Carlo Franza, Flaminio Gualdoni, Yacouba Konaté, Frédérique Malaval, Paolo Levi, Laurence Pauliac, Elena Pontiggia and Cortney Stell.

Maria Cristina Carlini lives and works in Milan. www.mariacristinacarlina.com

Exhibition details

Title Maria Cristina Carlini. Origine

Curated by Carla Arigoni

Venue Beffroi, Mairie du 1er arrondissement, 4 Place du Louvre, Paris

Exhibition design Anna Mari

PR Caterina Licitra Ponti

Dates 21 March - 12 April 2019

Opening Wednesday 20 March, 6pm-8.30pm

Opening hours Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Friday 12pm-5pm; Thursday 12pm-7.30pm; Saturday 10am-12.30pm

Info to the public www.mairie01.paris.fr

Kadija Ouadi - kadija.ouadi@paris.fr

Press office for Italy

IBC Irma Bianchi Communication

Ph. +39 02 8940 4694 - mob. + 39 328 5910857 - info@irmabianchi.it

Text and image downloads from www.irmabianchi.it

Press office for France

Christine Delterme

Ph. +33 (0)6 6056 8440 - c.delterme@wanadoo.fr