



MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

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Michelangelo Pistoletto *Scultura da Passeggio - Walking Sculpture*

Magazzino Italian Art is pleased to announce renowned Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto in the latest reenactment of his 1967 performance *Scultura da Passeggio* (*Walking Sculpture*).

COLD SPRING, NEW YORK – On Saturday, November 4, 2017 Michelangelo Pistoletto will roll one of his signature pieces, *Sfera di Giornali* (*Newspaper Sphere*), down the streets of Cold Spring, New York, in a reenactment of the original 1967 performance, which took place in Turin, Italy.

A new version of the *Sfera di Giornali* will be the focal point of this upcoming performance, graciously donated by the artist to Magazzino Italian Art, becoming part of its permanent collection. This rendition of the *Sfera* is composed of pages of the three American newspapers which announced the birth of Magazzino for the first time in the fall of 2016: *The Highlands Current*, *The New York Times*, and *The Putnam County News and Recorder*.

The performance will begin at 12:30pm in the village gazebo of Cold Spring, located at the bottom of Main Street along the Hudson River waterfront. Pistoletto will present the project as a salute to the Philipstown community, home of Magazzino Italian Art. Led by the artist, the public will be invited to join the performance and roll the sphere along a portion of Main Street, circling back to the iconic Cold Spring Gazebo. There, Pistoletto and Magazzino Italian Art founders Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu will give closing remarks.

Pistoletto's *Sfere di Giornali* (*Newspaper Spheres*) were first conceived and executed between 1965 and 1968. These were the years in which the artist created his *Oggetti in Meno*, or *Minus Objects*; these works signified not a rejection of form, but rather the form brought to life.

The *Sfera di Giornali* conceived in 1966 was rolled out onto the streets of Turin in December 1967 and became the historical performance piece known as *Scultura da Passeggio*. During this performance, the *Sfera*, after riding on Pistoletto's red Fiat convertible, crossed Piazza San Carlo and was rolled from Galleria Christian Stein to Galleria Sperone, where it would remain for the duration of Pistoletto's exhibition at that time. The newspapers with which the artist formed the sphere reflected pressing contemporary news stories, bringing attention to the turmoil that plagued Italy in the

late sixties. Spheres faithfully evoke the concept of circulation, pairing nicely with the literal imagery of newspapers, which circulate information. The significances of the rolling newspapers are manifold; the three principal ideas that Pistoletto wants to convey are an all-encompassing expression of circulation, a manipulation of the passage of time, and the way in which art confronts people every day and brings joy to human life.

The performance has been repeated many times over the course of the last fifty years. In May 2009, more than forty years after the sphere's initial journey, Pistoletto created a new *Sfera di Giornali* specifically for *The Long Weekend Festival* at the Tate Modern in London. Once again on this occasion, Pistoletto used a sphere covered in newspapers reflecting the current events of the time.

The following year, a new version of the *Sfera di Giornali* christened the first retrospective of Pistoletto's work at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Other versions of the work have appeared in Paris, during Pistoletto's exhibit *Année 1. Le Paradis sur Terre (Year 1, Heaven on Earth)* at the Louvre Museum (2013); in Dubai, at the Leila Heller Gallery (2016); and in Havana, at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (2016), where the performance coincidentally took place the same day as the passing of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

In the Cold Spring performance, *Sfera di Giornali* acknowledges not only the existence of Magazzino Italian Art, but also the vision of the local community, which welcomed the art warehouse as part of its cultural landscape.

The circularity of the sphere and its itinerary on the streets of Cold Spring celebrate the encounter between the American and Italian cultural traditions. With this performance, an iconic Italian art movement synergizes with the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley, as well as its historic and artistic landmarks, like the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Hudson River School of Painting.

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Michelangelo Pistoletto

Michelangelo Pistoletto was born in Biella in 1933. He began to exhibit his work in 1955, and in 1960 he had his first solo show at Galleria Galatea in Turin. His early work is characterized by an inquiry into self-portraiture. During 1961 and 1962, Pistoletto made his first *Mirror Paintings*, which directly include the viewer and real time in the work, and open up perspective, reversing the Renaissance perspective that had been closed by the avant-garde movements of the early twentieth century. These works quickly brought Pistoletto international acclaim, leading, in the sixties, to one-man shows in significant galleries and museums in Europe and the United States. The *Mirror Paintings* are the foundation of Pistoletto's subsequent artistic output and theoretical thought.

In 1965 and 1966 Pistoletto produced a set of works entitled *Minus Objects*, considered fundamental to the birth of Arte Povera, an art movement of which Pistoletto was an animating force and a protagonist. In 1967, he began to work outside traditional exhibition spaces with the first instances of "creative collaboration." He developed this approach over the following decades by bringing together artists from different disciplines and diverse sectors of society. In 1975–76 he presented a cycle of twelve consecutive exhibitions, *Le Stanze (Rooms)*, at the Christian Stein Gallery in Turin. This was the first of a series of complex, year-long works called "time continents." Others were *White Year* (1989) and *Happy Turtle* (1992).

In 1978, in a show in Turin, Pistoletto defined two main directions his future artwork would evoke: *Division and Multiplication of the Mirror and Art Takes On Religion*. In the early eighties he made a series of sculptures in rigid polyurethane, translated into marble for his solo show in 1984 at Forte di Belvedere in Florence. From 1985 to 1989 he created the series of "dark" volumes called *Art of Squalor*.

During the nineties, with *Project Art* and with the creation of his foundation Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella, Italy, as well as with the University of Ideas, Pistoletto took art into active relation with diverse spheres of society with the aim of inspiring and producing responsible social change.

In 2003, he won the Venice Biennale's Golden Lion for Lifelong Achievement. The following year, the University of Turin awarded him an honorary degree in Political Science. On that occasion the artist announced what has become the most recent phase of his work, *Third Paradise*. In 2007, in Jerusalem, he received the Wolf Foundation Prize in the Arts, "for his constantly inventive career as an artist, educator and activist whose restless intelligence has created prescient forms of art that contribute to fresh understanding of the world." In 2010, he wrote the essay *The Third Paradise*, published in Italian, English, French and German. In 2011, he was the artistic director of *Evento 2011 – L'art pour une ré-évolution urbaine (Art for an Urban Re-evolution)* in Bordeaux. In 2012, he started promoting *Rebirth-day*, the first worldwide day of rebirth, celebrated every year on December 21, with initiatives taking place all around the world.

In 2013, the Louvre hosted his solo exhibition *Michelangelo Pistoletto – Année 1 – le paradis sur terre (Michelangelo Pistoletto: Year 1, Heaven on Earth)*. That same year, he received the Praemium Imperiale for painting in Tokyo. In 2014, the symbol of the *Third Paradise* was installed in the hall of the headquarters of the Council of the European Union in Brussels for the period of the Italian Presidency of the European Council. In May 2015, he received an honorary degree from the Universidad de las Artes in Havana. That same year, he realized the large-scale work *Rebirth*, now located in the park of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the second largest of the four major office sites of the United Nations.

www.pistoletto.it
www.cittadellarte.it

Notes to the Editor

About Magazzino Italian Art

Magazzino Italian Art is a private warehouse art space located in Cold Spring, New York, in the Highlands of the Hudson Valley. The space is dedicated to postwar and contemporary Italian art. Taking its name from the Italian word for “warehouse,” the 20,000 square-foot structure was designed by Spanish-born architect Miguel Quismondo. The exhibitions are composed of selected artworks drawn exclusively from the Olnick Spanu Collection.

Co-founded by Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu, and directed by Vittorio Calabrese, Magazzino Italian Art is free to the public by appointment. In addition to its curatorial program, Magazzino serves as a resource for scholars and students, who can utilize its extensive library and archive of sources for Italian art and Arte Povera. Magazzino also serves as a cultural hub for the vibrant Hudson Valley community.

Magazzino Italian Art undertakes collaborations with American and Italian organizations to support contemporary artists and to foster discussions about postwar and contemporary Italian art in the United States. Magazzino Italian Art is a donor for the 57th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia and Documenta 14 in Athens (2017), Dia Art Foundation in Beacon, NY, and Fondazione Merz in Turin, Italy.

About Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu, Co-Founders of Magazzino Italian Art and Olnick Spanu Art Program

Born on two distant islands, Manhattan and Sardinia, respectively, Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu have been Philipstown residents for over twenty-five years. They began their Collection by acquiring works by modern European masters and American Pop artists, a movement contemporary but juxtaposed to Arte Povera. Their admiration of Italian art and culture led them to an exploration of conceptual artistic movements of a similar period but from a different perspective. Together, they have developed one of the most extensive collections of postwar and contemporary Italian art, as well as of twentieth-century Murano glass, in the United States.

Long-time supporters of the arts, Olnick and Spanu have continued to further their commitment to the arts through the Olnick Spanu Art Program, a one-year artist residency program that invites contemporary Italian artists to create site-specific installations on the couple's property in Garrison, NY.

In 2003, always fascinated by modern architecture, Nancy and Giorgio commissioned Spanish architect Alberto Campo Baeza to create *Casa Mia*, The Olnick Spanu Residence in Garrison. Representative of both the couple and their love for art, the glass house stands as Baeza's first project in the United States, and reflects a balance between modernism and classicism; a dialogue of modern architecture and Italian art set in the unique scenery and light of the Hudson Valley.

About Cold Spring, New York

Cold Spring is arguably one of the most idyllic villages of New York State's Hudson Valley. Sitting on the east bank of the Hudson River, it offers spectacular views of the Highlands across the river, including the United States Military Academy at West Point. The village gazebo, situated at the end of Main Street, overlooks the river and beyond.

Located just over fifty miles from New York City, Cold Spring is a seventy-five minute scenic train ride from Grand Central Terminal. With its art galleries, antique shops, fine restaurants, and scenic hiking trails, Cold Spring offers itself as a delightful weekend getaway destination for residents of New York City and the surrounding area.

The village's Historic District is on the National Register of Historic Places. One can admire many of the well-preserved nineteenth-century buildings, constructed to accommodate workers at the nearby West Point Foundry, itself a Registered Historic place today.

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Other attractions in the area include Boscobel House and Gardens, considered one of the leading historic house museums in the United States; Manitoga's Dragon Rock, Russel Wright's house and studio, widely accepted as an outstanding example of Organic Modern architecture; and the Putnam History Museum, an important site for the history of Putnam County, Philipstown, the West Point Foundry, and the Hudson Highlands. All three are open to the public.

Also of note is the Parrott Cannon, which is positioned directly behind the gazebo. The cannon is a tribute to Robert P. Parrott, the creator of Parrott guns, which were used extensively during the American Civil War by both the Union and Confederate armies.

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