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Istituto Nazionale d'Arte Contemporanea

CENTRO ITALIANO PER LE ARTI E LA CULTURA

Press Release 12.07.2010

Maria Cristina Carlini. Talk

Vernissage	**Thursday, July 15, 2010**
Date	**July 16 – August 31, 2010**
Venue	**JINAN, Shandong University of Art and Design - China**
Event	**Exhibition and award of the honorific recognition for art**
Date	**Saturday, July 17, 2010**
Venue	**TIANJIN, Italian District – China**
Event	**Inauguration of the sculpture *Letteratura/Literature*, on display permanently in the Italian District**

After the Forbidden City in Beijing, the monumental sculptures by **Maria Cristina Carlini** continue their 'journey' through China and arrive in **Jinan**, the capital of the Shandong Province.
The solo exhibition "Maria Cristina Carlini. Talk" will be inaugurated on Thursday, **July 15th** and will continue until Tuesday, August 31st, housed in the **Shandong University of Art and Design**, which was founded in Jinan in 1973. On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, the University will award Maria Cristina Carlini the honorific recognition for her artistic activity and promotion of the contemporary Italian culture in China.

Two monumental sculptures, namely *Fortezza/Fortress* and *Legami/Ties* will be exhibited inside the modern university campus, while in the university museum an exhibition of smaller works will be set up, accompanied by a group of educational panels aimed at illustrating the creativity of the Milanese sculptress.
Legami/Ties (2009, 470x280x270 cm), alludes to the complex dimension of human relations: two monolithic parallelepipeds of Corten steel joined by such a pliable and flexible material as lead is.
Fortezza Fortress (2008, Corten steel, 440 h 500 Ø cm) is also very significant: in its walls, deep fissures are opened, allowing you to observe the sculpture inside as well, so as to involve the viewer not only from a spatial, but also from a temporal point of view.
This work is destined to remain in the university as a personal gift of the artist.

Besides Maria Cristina Carlini herself, the inauguration will be celebrated in the presence of the following personalities: the Governor of the Shandong Province, Mr. Han Yuqun, the President of Shandong University, Mr. Pan Lusheng, the President of the National Institute of Contemporary Art, Mr. Anselmo Villata and the Director of the Italian Centre for Arts and Culture, Mr. Vincenzo Sanfo.

Maria Cristina Carlini's contemporary art is being greeted with enthusiasm in China thanks to its high cultural content, which 'dialogues' with this great nation with a millenary tradition.
On Saturday, **July 17th** will be officially inaugurated in **Tianjin** - twinned with Lombardy - the monumental sculpture entitled *Letteratura/Literature* (2007, Corten steel, resins, 500x250x250 cm), to be installed permanently in the **Italian District**, which was built in the early nineteenth century, and is the only example of Renaissance architecture in China. The work is located just a few metres away from the local headquarters of the Italian Cultural Institute.

In the event will take part, besides the artist, the local authorities, including the Director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Mrs. Barbara Alighieri, Mr. Anselmo Villata and Mr. Vincenzo Sanfo.

A brief biography

Maria Cristina Carlini started working ceramics in the early **Seventies** in Palo Alto, California. She returned to Europe – at first to Brussels, then, in 1978, to Italy. In 1983 she held a solo exhibition in the Rocca Borromea, a Fortress located in **Angera**, and in the following years she continued her exhibition activity.
During the artistic activity of Maria Cristina Carlini, exhibitions in numerous international public and private venues followed one another, including the following solo exhibitions: in 2004, in **Rome**, at **Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza – the State Archives**; in 2005, in **Turin**, in the rooms of the Monumental Complex of the **Royal Palace**, and at the **National Museum of Villa Pisani in Strà-Venice**. In the same year, Maria Cristina Carlini was declared the "Artist of the year" at the XVII edition of the "Prize of Arts", "Prize of Culture".
In 2008 she exhibited at the **National Library in Cosenza** and at the **State Archives in Milan, Palace of the Senate**.
In April 2009 the city of **Paris** housed in the Mairie of the 5th Arrondissement and in the streets of the historic centre her monumental sculptures, one of which was purchased and installed permanently.
In **Loreto** her works were the protagonists of a significant exhibition entitled "Maria Cristina Carlini. Inventario Contemporaneo" ("Maria Cristina Carlini. A Contemporary Inventory"): here the imposing sculpture *Pellegrini (Pilgrims)* remains on permanent display in the Gardens of Porta Marina. In Spain, from May to July, several monumental sculptures were housed in the streets of **Madrid**.
In June, Maria Cristina Carlini was awarded – in the City Hall on the Capitoline Hill – the honorific **Ignazio Silone Prize for Culture**. In September, at the Guggenheim Collection in Venice was presented the **book "Maria Cristina Carlini"**, which traces the sculptress's main artistic stages through the texts of sixteen international critics.
Exhibitions of international renown saw her as the protagonist in **2010**.
In **Reggio Calabria**, from January to February, was held a solo exhibition of her works in the Aragonese Castle, while along the Promenade Falcomatà it was possible to admire her sculpture entitled *Monumento al Mediterraneo (Monument to the Mediterranean),* which would remain installed there permanently.
On the occasion of the celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Italy and China, her monumental work *Viandanti (Wayfarers)* was installed permanently in front of the Italian Embassy in **Beijing**. Always in Beijing, in the magnificent **Forbidden City**, the solo exhibition "Colloquio tra giganti" ("A Talk amongst Giants") is inaugurated, which consecrated Maria Cristina Carlini as the first contemporary sculptress to exhibit in the imperial complex.

Event details

Venue	**JINAN, Shandong University of Art and Design** 23. Qianfoshan East Road, China Phone: +86 531 2619385 Fax: +86 531 2619550 www.sdada.edu.cn
Exhibition title	**Maria Cristina Carlini. Talk**
Vernissage	**Thursday, July 15, 2010 - award of the honorific recognition for art**
Dates	**July 16 – August 31, 2010**

Venue	**TIANJIN, Italian District – China**
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