Superstudio Maxi

via Moncucco 35, Milano

Maria Cristina Carlini takes part in SuperCity

curated by Giulio Cappellini

Milano Design Week
April 20 – 26 2026

Press Preview Day
Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m.–6 p.m

press release, 16.04.2026

Maria Cristina Carlini takes part in **Superstudio Design**, on the occasion of the twenty-sixth edition of Milan Design Week, from April 20 to 26, 2026, confirming the artist as a leading voice in the contemporary cultural landscape.

Carlini is part of the **SuperCity** context, set within the spaces of **Superstudio Maxi** in the emerging Barona district, curated by **Giulio Cappellini**. An immersive journey that envisions the ideal city, where architecture, design, art, and photography intertwine with a forward-looking perspective.
The artist takes part in the ***Art Boulevard*** project, a pathway connecting different areas of the venue through a series of large-scale sculptures. At the center of the boulevard, a composition of silver sofas by **Piero Lissoni** for Living Divani divides the space in two, while **Carlini**'s sculptures engage in dialogue with the tall corten figures by **Flavio Lucchini**.

For the occasion, **three monumental works** have been selected that embody Carlini's poetics: *Legni* (2012), *Fantasmi del lago* (2002), and *Le Tribù* (2025). As noted by art critic **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, artistic and scientific director of the **Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS**, the works express the artist's sensitivity toward the transformation of matter, her reflection on the relationship between humans and nature, and her tension toward the transcendent.

In *Legni*, three autonomous modules made of reclaimed wood on iron bases rise vertically, evoking an abstract forest of strong emotional impact. Carlini allows herself to be guided by the intrinsic qualities of the materials, perceiving their ancestral pulse and transforming them into primordial energy.
Although devoid of a predefined ecological intent, the work suggests reflections on sustainability and the balance between humans and nature. Its poetic strength arises from a *caos-germe* a spontaneous impulse that generates vitality and a tension toward the transcendent without predefined aesthetic codes. Matter thus becomes the instrument of a sustainable and symbolically rich sculpture, capable of activating an intense and open-ended experience free from predetermined interpretations.

The big **unseen** sculpture *Le Tribù* consists of two vertical elements made of reclaimed seventeenth-century floor beams, sheet metal, and iron nails, forming conical shapes that evoke cohesive and identity-driven civil communities. The work explores the dialogue between natural material and metal, between rootedness and upward momentum; yet the sheet metal interrupts this elevation, suggesting limits imposed by humankind and unexplored spiritual tensions.
Here as well, meaning arises from a *caos-germe*, allowing the materials to develop spontaneously and to trigger symbolic and poetic resonance in the viewer, minimizing predefined aesthetic codes. The sculpture reflects themes of balance, implicit sustainability, and harmonious relationships between humans, nature, and community, confirming Carlini's unique approach to contemporary sculpture.

I fantasmi del lago is a sculpture composed of four columns in mixed technique on iron, with marble powder, glues, and gold leaf, emerging from a circular base designed to hold water. The work engages conceptually with the "Endless Column" by Constantin Brâncuși, reinterpreting the theme in an original way.
The columns do not progress in an orderly upward motion: their visual ascent is interrupted, and the water of the lake reflects the sky without allowing it to be conquered. Thus, the "ghosts," suspended between reality and imagination, become a metaphor for a distant and elusive transcendence. The number four recalls the cardinal points and the natural elements, suggesting a symbolic balance between the material world and the universal dimension. The work merges poetry, geometry, and symbolism, offering a contemplative and sensitive experience to the viewer.

The compositions interact with one another, enabling an **immersive experience** for visitors and revealing the artist's creative processes, which identify natural materials as her primary source of inspiration.

With her participation in the international context of Milan Design Week, within the prestigious and innovative setting of SuperCity at Superstudio Maxi, the artist reaffirms her role as a key figure in sustainable contemporary art.

Biographical notes. Sculptor Maria Cristina Carlini began her artistic journey working with ceramics in the early 1970s in Palo Alto, California, later expanding her practice through the use of various materials such as stoneware, iron, corten steel, and reclaimed wood. She has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in public and private venues both nationally and internationally, receiving awards and honors. Her monumental sculptures are permanently installed across three continents: Europe, America, and Asia.
In January 2025, the artist officially opened the **Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS** to the public, with the aim of preserving and promoting the vast artistic and documentary heritage produced over more than fifty years of activity; its artistic direction is entrusted to **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**. Numerous publications have accompanied Carlini's artistic career, and important critics have written about her, including Paolo Campiglio, Luciano Caramel, Claudio Cerritelli, Vittoria Coen, Guo Xiao Chuan, Martina Corgnati, Gillo Dorfles, Carlo Franza, Maria Fratelli, Chiara Gatti, Flaminio Gualdoni, Yacouba Konaté, Frédérique Malaval, Laurence Pauliac, Elena Pontiggia, and Cortney Stell. She lives and works in Milan. www.mariacristinacarlini.com – www.fondazionemariacristinacarlini.it

Event details
Title Maria Cristina Carlini takes part in SuperCity
Venue Superstudio Maxi, via Moncucco, 35 - Milan

Dates Press Preview Day April 19 | Milano Design Week April 20-26
Opening hours Press Preview Day Superstudio Maxi April 10-18 | 20-25 11:00-21:00, April 26 11:00-18:00
Admission free
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