Fondazione maria cristina carlini

Biography

Maria Cristina Carlini's artistic path began in the early 1970s in Palo Alto, California, where she attended a two-year specialized course in ceramics. After returning to Europe in **1975**, she settled in Brussels, where she continued her artistic activity while also teaching wheel-throwing techniques. She later moved back to Milan and in **1978** opened her own studio, "Le Terre," in the Brera district.
In **1983** she held her first solo exhibition at the Rocca di Angera (Varese), and from **1984** she attended advanced courses at the California College of Arts and Crafts in San Francisco, where she encountered the emerging artistic movement of New Ceramics. During these years she organized solo exhibitions and participated in group shows, including the **1990** solo exhibition *Il colore delle terre* at the Civica Raccolta della Terraglia di Cerro, near Laveno (Varese).
In **1992** she participated in the exhibition *Découvertes '92* at the Grand Palais in Paris, presented by Elena Pontiggia; the following year the Christine Colmant Art Gallery in Brussels hosted her works.
From that moment on, alongside stoneware and lava clay, materials such as corten steel, iron, and wood increasingly became part of her expressive language, especially in works of monumental scale. Their imposing presence became a distinctive feature of her practice.
In **2003** she exhibited at Galleria Borgogna in Milan, presented by Luciano Caramel.
In **2004** she was featured in Rome at Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza – Archivio di Stato with a solo exhibition promoted by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities titled *Tracce e Luoghi*, curated by Carlo Franza.
Between 2004 and **2005** she participated in the exhibition series *Nutrirsi con l'arte* at the Museo delle Antichità in Turin. Also in Turin, in 2005, she held a solo exhibition titled *Stanze* at the monumental complex of Palazzo Reale, curated by Carlo Franza; in the same year the Museo Nazionale di Villa Pisani in Strà, Venice, hosted the solo show *Reperti*.
In **2006** she exhibited at the Archivio Centrale di Stato in Rome (EUR) with the exhibition *Terre*, curated by Carlo Franza; on this occasion the large sculpture *Fortezza* was permanently installed in the square in front of the building. In the same year she held a solo exhibition at the Galleria delle Battaglie in Brescia curated by Claudio Cerritelli, who also invited her to participate in the Premio Suzzara.
In **2007** three monumental sculptures were permanently installed: *La Porta della Giustizia* in Milan in the square of the Corte dei Conti, *La città che sale* at the Fiera di Milano-Rho presented by Philippe Daverio, and *La vittoria di Samotracia* in Cosenza in Piazza dei Valdesi, accompanied by a solo exhibition at the city's National Library.
In **2008** the Italian Cultural Institute in Prague hosted a solo exhibition, and at the same time the artist created the stage design for the opera *Ecco la mia bell'Orsa*, with music by Federico Gozzellino, staged at the National Theatre. Subsequently, Maria Cristina Carlini exhibited at the Palazzo del Senato of the Archivio di Stato in Milan with a solo show curated by Gillo Dorfles.

Her exhibitions in **2009** were of great international importance.
The city of Paris hosted her monumental sculptures—in the Mairie of the 5th arrondissement and along the streets of the historic center, including Place du Panthéon, Place de la Sorbonne, Rue Soufflot, and Boulevard Saint-Michel—in the exhibition *Maria Cristina Carlini. Sculture nella città*, curated by Luciano Caramel. From May to July, her large works arrived in Madrid, in Calle Mayor, Paseo de la Castellana, Calle de Juan Bravo, Plaza Alfredo Mahou, and at the Italian Cultural Institute in an exhibition curated by Gillo Dorfles.
In Loreto (Ancona), several works were featured in the exhibition *Maria Cristina Carlini. Inventario Contemporaneo* in the Cantine del Bramante; the imposing sculpture *Pellegrini* remained permanently on display in the Giardini di Porta Marina. She was later awarded the Ignazio Silone Prize for Culture in Rome at the Campidoglio. The year 2009 concluded with an important presentation at the Guggenheim Collection in Venice, conceived and curated by Luciano Caramel, where the volume *Maria Cristina Carlini*, edited by Yacouba Konaté, was presented.
Throughout **2010** exhibitions continued: in Reggio Calabria the Castello Aragonese hosted a solo exhibition, and the sculpture *Monumento al Mediterraneo* was permanently installed on the Lungomare Italo Falcomatà.
Carlini was invited to participate in Expo 2010 in Shanghai with several monumental sculptures and in an exhibition organized for International Women's Day. Her monumental work *Viandanti II* was permanently installed in front of the Italian Embassy in Beijing, and in the Forbidden City she inaugurated the solo exhibition *Colloquio tra giganti*.
She also held a solo exhibition at the Shandong University of Art and Design in Jinan, capital of Shandong province, China. In the same year the monumental sculpture *Letteratura II* was officially inaugurated in Tianjin and permanently installed in the Italian district. Back in Beijing, on the occasion of the IV Art Biennale, she presented the new work *Le Danzatrici* at NAMOC, the National Art Museum of China. Shortly afterward, during the World Expo 2010, Shanghai hosted an exhibition of her monumental works in People's Square, while the sculpture *Legami II* remained permanently in the Sculpture Park.
Also in 2010 she exhibited in France on the seafront of Cap d'Agde and in the United States in Denver on the university campuses of Auraria and the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design, where the monumental works *Madre* and *Out & Inside* remain permanently installed.
She participated with the installation *Labirinto* in the International Sculpture Biennial titled *Scultura Internazionale a Racconigi, 2010*, curated by Luciano Caramel.
In **2011** she took part as guest of honor in the third edition of the Contemporary Art Fair *aam – arte accessibile milano*, held at the headquarters of the Gruppo 24 ORE. She later traveled to Miami for the inauguration ceremony of one of her largest monumental works, *Icaro*, which opened the new Sculpture Park adjacent to the Corpus Christi Church; the imposing *Vittoria di Samotracia* was also installed in front of the entrance of Dade College.
In December she participated in the group exhibition *Lo scultore, la terra. Artisti e ricerche 1920-2011*, curated by Flaminio Gualdoni in Rome, featuring major twentieth-century and

contemporary artists dedicated to ceramic sculpture.
In **2012** Maria Cristina Carlini's works were exhibited at the headquarters of the Province of Varese during the exhibition *Scultori a Villa Recalcati*, curated by Flaminio Gualdoni; the following year the work *Bosco* was permanently installed in the park.
Between November 2012 and January **2013** she presented an important solo exhibition in Milan at the Fondazione Mudima and Fondazione Stelline, during which the artist's monograph edited by Flaminio Gualdoni was presented.
The Royal Castle of Govone (Cuneo) hosted the retrospective *Maria Cristina Carlini. Fare secondo natura*, curated by Martina Corgnati; she later participated in the group exhibition *Futuro Anteriore. Le Arti della Ceramica*, curated by Mara Ruzza at the Ex-Macello in Padua.
Between 2013 and **2014** she took part in the group exhibition *Wunderkammer. Arte, Natura, Meraviglia ieri e oggi*, curated by Lavinia Galli and Martina Mazzotta at the Museo Poldi Pezzoli and the Gallerie d'Italia in Milan. In 2014, on the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the European Union, the solo exhibition *Terra, fuoco, ferro, legno. Maria Cristina Carlini*, curated by Martina Corgnati, was presented at the Italian Cultural Institutes in Cologne, Strasbourg, and Zagreb.
For **EXPO 2015**, at Fieramilano in Rho (South Gate), the monumental sculpture *La nuova città che sale*, ten meters high and made of corten steel and reclaimed wood, was permanently installed, presented at the Milan Triennale by Philippe Daverio.
In 2015 she took part in the group exhibition *Teresa de Ávila – mística y transgresora*, curated by Guadalupe Luceño and Ilse-Maria Dorfstecher at the Palacio de Pimentel in Valladolid and the Inselgalerie in Berlin; for EXPO 2015, upon the proposal of Martina Corgnati, the large sculpture *Vento* was permanently installed in the Parco dell'Arte at the Idroscalo in Milan. In the same year the video documentary *Maria Cristina Carlini. Sculptures*, directed by Matteo Bernardini, was produced.
She participated in the Milan Design Week **2016** at Superstudio Più with the exhibition of the new monumental sculpture *Obelisco*, in corten steel and reclaimed wood, placed outdoors, and *Libri* in medium and small dimensions at the entrance to the Central Pavilion. In the same year she presented the solo exhibition *Maria Cristina Carlini. Le ragioni del luogo*, curated by Flaminio Gualdoni at MyOwnGallery of Superstudio Più.
In **2017** she participated in the group exhibition *Sequela*, curated by Leonardo Regano and hosted in the former Church of San Mattia in Bologna, inaugurated in conjunction with Arte Fiera.
In **2019** the imposing sculpture *Origine* was exhibited in Paris at the evocative Beffroi in Place du Louvre, while three works from the *Alberi* series were chosen as awards for the winners of the *Made in Steel Award* at Fieramilano in Rho. In the same year the work *La Chiusa. Omaggio a Leonardo* was installed beneath the historic arches of the Roman Bridge in Parma during the fourth edition of *PARMA 360 Festival della creatività contemporanea*, curated by Camilla Mineo and Chiara Canali. The sculpture *Impronte* also became part of the permanent collection of the Museo del Parco di Portofino, the International Open-Air Sculpture Center. In Milan the gallery Artespressione hosted the solo exhibition *Concepire la materia*, curated by Matteo Pacini.

In **2020** she was invited to present a solo exhibition at the Studio Museo Francesco Messina in the former Church of San Sisto, curated by Chiara Gatti and Maria Fratelli. For the occasion, Storyville produced a documentary film on the sculptor directed by Stefano Conca Bonizzoni, titled *Geologie, memorie della terra*.
In **2021** she participated in the XIII Florence Biennale at the Fortezza da Basso in Florence with the work *Foresta* exhibited in the Cavaniglia Pavilion, curated by Fortunato D'Amico; at the Studio Museo Francesco Messina an important monograph dedicated to her, edited by Chiara Gatti, was presented as part of the BookCity 2021 events.
In **2022** she took part in the group exhibition *Oro&Blu* at the Nuova Galleria Morone; she also participated in Genova Design Week at the invitation of Fortunato D'Amico and, during the Salone del Mobile in Milan, exhibited at Superstudio Più where the evocative work *Foresta* welcomed visitors. An important solo exhibition curated by Vittoria Coen occupied the indoor and outdoor spaces of the Fondazione Stelline, where monumental, medium-sized, and small works fully expressed her poetic vision.
In **2023** she participated in the Nineteenth *Giornata del Contemporaneo* promoted by AMACI – Associazione Musei d'Arte Contemporanea Italiani, opening her studio to the public.
In **2024** the work *Obelisco* was permanently installed in Piazza Berlinguer in Milan, enriching the city artistically and culturally with the monumental sculpture.
In the same year the documentary film *Maria Cristina Carlini. Il coraggio della grandezza*, directed by Pino Farinotti and Tiziano Sossi, was produced and presented at the MEET Digital Culture Centre in Milan, recounting the life and art of the sculptor.
In January **2025** the sculptor officially opened the Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS to the public, with the artistic and scientific curatorship of Flaminio Gualdoni, established with the aim of preserving and enhancing the artistic heritage created over more than fifty years.
In Varese, within the framework of the *Primavera del Premio Chiara*, the "encounter between Maria Cristina Carlini and Gabriella Belli" took place, during which the film *Maria Cristina Carlini. Il coraggio della grandezza* was presented.
In Milan, in autumn, an important solo exhibition was held at the Paula Seegy Gallery, enriched by the presentation of the *tirage de lux*, books containing an authentic work by the artist.
In **2026** she participated with three sculptures at the Italian Chamber of Deputies in SUSTART – Sustainable Art, an international forum with artistic and scientific direction by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, as the only artist selected.
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