

# PAULA SEEGY

GALLERY

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Via San Maurilio, 14 – Milan

## UGO LA PIETRA. ITINERARIES

**October 19th – November 30th, 2023**

Opening on Thursday, October 19th, at 6:30 PM

The artist will be in attendance

*press release, October 19, 2023*

In the heart of Milan, nestled within the prestigious 5Vie district renowned for its thriving art scene, **Paula Seegy Gallery** has found its home at Via San Maurilio 14. This dynamic and enchanting space is housed on the ground floor of an illustrious eighteenth-century building, boasting expansive storefront windows. The gallery places its spotlight on modern and contemporary artists, offering a thoughtfully curated calendar of events. **On Thursday, October 19th**, the gallery will open its doors to host the grand opening of Ugo La Pietra's solo exhibition. Ugo La Pietra, artist, architect, and designer with an unwavering commitment to the local community and social issues, takes center stage. The exhibition, titled "**Ugo La Pietra. Itineraries**", will be on display **until November 30th** and is complemented by a publication.

The core of the exhibit revolves around pieces created over the artist's lifetime, spanning from the 1970s to the present, encompassing a wide range of artistic expressions. It includes paintings, graphic works, drawings, collages, as well as ceramics and delves deep into the theme of the territory — an exploration that the artist embarked upon in the 1960s, examining its diverse facets, from the city center to the outskirts, from the macro to the microscopic.

Explorer, researcher, and scholar in this field, Ugo La Pietra has approached various spaces without preconceptions, decoding elements to conduct a free and conscious analysis, entirely unburdened by societal norms. As a result of these analyses, we witness the dissolution of barriers between public and private space, interior and exterior, as well as the unveiling of the values and contradictions inherent in urban living, all through his unique interpretation of the residential landscape. These interpretations are conveyed through various artistic and graphic mediums, depending on the explored context. From the very pragmatic exploration of places and territories emerge *Itineraries*, as described by the artist: "*On the blank canvas, through my marks, I travel with tools capable of depicting uncharted places and territories. Just as the gradually deepening shades of blue indicate varying depths of water on a solo navigator's map, my colors describe places, some more challenging to traverse than others, where the boldest mark brings forth the prominence of my 'preferred itineraries', those full of risk.*"

The exhibition unveils various aspects related to Ugo La Pietra's *Itineraries*: *Paths from the city center to the outskirts*, a continuous practice that draws reference from the "chemin du dérive," (an activity already experimented with by the Surrealists in the 1930s); *Urban Paths*, linked to the metropolitan network; *Alternative Paths*, where the artist delves into the suburbs. "My Territoriality", instead, presents fantastical places as subjects, territories associated with past experiences of which few traces remain, but where desires can be nurtured. Finally, there are also paths not practiced by humans but by animals, the *Pathways of three of my friends*, the hare, the turtle, and the owl, to whom the artist has developed a particular fondness in his experience.

## **Artist Bio**

Born in Bussi sul Tirino (Pescara) in 1938, originally from Arpino (Frosinone), Ugo La Pietra lives and works in Milan, where he graduated in Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano), in 1964.

An architect by training, he is also an artist, filmmaker, editor, musician, comic artist, and educator. Since the 1960s, he has identified himself as a researcher in the fields of communication and visual arts, simultaneously navigating the realms of art and design.

An indefatigable experimenter, he has experienced various artistic movements (from Sign Painting to conceptual art, from Narrative Art to art house films) and employed multiple mediums.

His research has materialized in the theory of the "Disequilibrating System", an autonomous expression within Radical Design, as well as in significant sociological themes such as "The Telematic House" (MoMA in New York, 1972 – Milan Fair, 1983), "The Relationship between Real and Virtual Space" (Triennale di Milano, 1979, 1992), "The Neoecclectic House" (Abitare il tempo, 1990), and "Beach Culture" (Centro Culturale Cattolica, 1985/95).

He has communicated his work through numerous exhibitions in Italy and abroad, participating in various exhibitions at the Triennale di Milano, Venice Biennale, Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon, FRAC Museum in Orléans, Ceramics Museum in Faenza, Ragghianti Foundation in Lucca, Mudima Foundation in Milan, and MA\*GA Museum in Gallarate. Throughout his career, he has consistently advocated for the humanistic, meaningful, and territorial aspects of art and design through his critical work, theoretical contributions, teaching, and editorial activities.

## **Exhibition Details**

**Title** Ugo La Pietra. Itineraries

**Venue** Paula Seegy Gallery, Via San Maurilio 14 - Milan

**Dates** October 19th – November 30th, 2023

**Opening** Thursday, October 19th, at 6:30 PM

**Hours** Tuesday to Saturday, 12 PM - 7 PM

**Free Admission**

**Organized by** Ugo La Pietra Archive

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