PAULA SEEGY

GALLERY

MILANO MUSEO CITY

PAULA SEEGY GALLERY
Via San Maurilio, 14 – Milan

Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki

curated by Luigi Sansone

February 5 – March 19 2026

Extended until Thursday, March 26, 6 pm finissage

press release, 12.03.26

At the **Paula Seegy Gallery in Milan**, visitors can admire the exhibition **"Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki",** curated by Luigi Sansone. Due to the public's enthusiasm and the attendance recorded, the exhibition has been **extended until Thursday, March 26**, concluding with a special **finissage** event.
The group show presents works by artists who for years have conducted in-depth studies and personal research around materials; **wood**, **copper**, **iron**, **steel**, and **glass** are transformed into tools of knowledge, imbued with history and memory.

In the exhibition, **Gabriella Benedini's** wood sculptures – often made from reclaimed pieces bearing traces of past lives – tell stories of memory and rebirth. **Pietro Coletta**'s copper works radiate light, energy, and spiritual balance, qualities linked to the material and its alchemical dimension. **Salvatore Cuschera** exploits the ductility of iron to bend it into incredibly dynamic and light forms. **Riccardo De Marchi**'s works, where steel becomes a surface to be carved and pierced with his "holes," create a highly personal and rhythmic visual language. **Izumi Ōki**'s luminous and transparent glass architectures unite form and spirituality.
The exhibition sets the five artists' experiences in dialogue through a unified path, where sculpture becomes a practice of listening to the material and a meeting place between the visible and the invisible.

The exhibition project is conceptually aligned with the major experimental movements of the 20th century avant-gardes, particularly Futurism, the first artistic movement to conceive art as a total intervention on life and to introduce a free and innovative use of materials. From Balla and Depero's "plastic complexes" to Boccioni's reflections on overcoming the traditional nobility of marble and bronze, materials transform into a means capable of expressing dynamism, energy, and vision. This spirit of research and experimentation continues to inspire the artists on display today.

Gabriella Benedini works wood as an archetypal material, preserving traces of memory and time. Reclaimed materials, often from boat hulls, carry remnants of a previous life that the artist does not erase but transforms. In the sculptures *Vele* (2024–2025), one black and one white, the lived material opens into a symbolic and spiritual dimension: concave forms driven by wind, a metaphor for an inner journey beyond physical reality. The yin/yang duality, continuous

transformation, and deep respect for nature make Benedini's work a poetic reflection on time, rebirth, and the energy retained in matter.
Copper is **Pietro Coletta**'s material of choice, valued for its symbolic and alchemical properties; a metal associated with warmth, vitality, light, and spiritual balance. In his sculptures, it becomes a sensitive surface capable of capturing and reflecting the energy of fire. Through burning, oxidation, and combinations with wood, iron, and glass, Coletta explores the relationship between light and shadow, real and virtual, material and transcendence. Works such as *Soglia*, *Dardo di Zeus*, and *Incanto* act as symbolic portals, transitional spaces between the visible and invisible, where art expresses the soul.
Salvatore Cuschera uses iron to create vibrant, dynamic forms in precarious balance. His deep knowledge of forging and welding techniques allows him to make a heavy and resistant material into compositions that seem to defy gravity. In works such as *Fuori diagonale* or *Tavola del deserto*, iron carries symbolic meanings: passages, thresholds, archetypes related to birth, journey, and spirituality. The void, air, and internal space of the sculptures become essential constructive elements, inviting reflection on the balance between order and disorder, lightness and stability.
Riccardo De Marchi focuses on engraving "holes" on surfaces – a simple yet radical gesture. For over forty years, he has pierced and modulated steel, aluminum, and plexiglass sheets, developing a personal language based on point, line, and plane. His works evoke ancient writings, geoglyphs, musical scores, and natural phenomena. De Marchi's holes act as openings to another space, inviting viewers to seek the hidden order of the visible world.
With **Izumi Ōki**, material produces light, her glass sculptures amplify space and interact with architecture through transparency, refraction, and luminous rhythms. The form emerges from an inner urgency and translates into essential structures imbued with spirituality. Works such as *Pensiero danzante*, *Onda architettonica*, and *Torre cattedrale* give glass the ability to unite delicacy, energy, and harmony, evoking a cosmic vision where chaos and order find perfect balance.

The exhibition also included the work of **Giacomo Benevelli** *Liason#100*, executed in Carrara **marble**, conceived as a project within **Milano MuseoCity**, in collaboration with the Giacomo Benevelli Archive.

This exhibition presents a cohesive and powerful journey that restores sculpture as a space of research, reflection, and vision, where diverse materials and sensibilities converge toward a single tension: the profound essence of matter and artistic creation.

Exhibition Details
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Curated by Luigi Sansone
Venue Paula Seegy Gallery, via San Maurilio 14 - Milan
Dates February 5 – March 19, 2026
Extended until Thursday March 26 – 6 pm finissage
Opening Thursday, February 5, 6 pm
Opening hours Tuesday – Saturday, 12 pm – 7 pm
Free Admission
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