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

press release, 23.02.26

At the **Paula Seegy Gallery in Milan**, the exhibition "**Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki**", curated by **Luigi Sansone** and on view through **March 19**, celebrates contemporary sculpture. The group show brings together artists who have long pursued a solid and deeply personal exploration of matter. **Wood, copper, iron, steel, and glass** become means of investigation and knowledge, imbued with memory and charged with energy.

The works of **Gabriella Benedini** entrust reclaimed wood with the task of evoking processes of metamorphosis and rebirth. **Pietro Coletta** recognizes in copper a primary and alchemical energy, capable of emanating light, warmth, and inner harmony. **Salvatore Cuschera** shapes iron through tension and flexion, granting it an unexpected sense of movement. **Riccardo De Marchi** treats steel as a surface to incise and transcend, transforming it into a web of signs. **Izumi Ōki**, through glass, creates luminous and transparent architectures in which formal dimension and spiritual tension merge.
The exhibition interweaves the experiences of the five artists into a single, coherent journey, where sculpture emerges as a practice of deep listening to matter and as a meeting place between the visible and the invisible.

The project ideally aligns with the great experimental movements of the early twentieth-century avant-gardes, particularly **Futurism**, the first artistic movement to conceive of art as a total intervention in life and to introduce a free and innovative use of materials. From Balla and Depero's "plastic complexes" to Boccioni's reflections on the destruction of the traditional nobility of marble and bronze, matter becomes a vehicle of dynamism, energy, and vision. It is precisely this spirit of research that continues to animate the artists featured in the exhibition.

Gabriella Benedini works with wood as an archetypal material, bearer of memory and time. The reclaimed materials—often taken from boat hull planking—retain traces of a previous life that the artist does not erase but transforms. In the sculptures *Vele* (2024–2025), one black and one white, lived matter opens toward a symbolic and spiritual dimension: concave forms driven by the wind, a metaphor for an inner journey beyond physical reality. The yin/yang duality, the theme of continuous transformation, and a profound respect for nature render Benedini's work a poetic reflection on time, rebirth, and the enduring energy within matter.
Copper is the material of choice for **Pietro Coletta**, selected for its powerful symbolic and alchemical value. A metal associated with vitality, light, and spiritual balance, copper in his

sculptures becomes a sensitive surface capable of capturing and reflecting the energy of fire. Through burnishing, oxidation, and combinations with wood, iron, and glass, Coletta explores the relationship between light and shadow, real and virtual, matter and transcendence. Works such as *Soglia*, *Dardo di Zeus* or *Incanto* take shape as symbolic portals—passageways between the visible and the invisible—where sculpture becomes an expression of the soul.

Salvatore Cuschera uses iron to create tense, dynamic forms poised in precarious balance. His deep knowledge of forging and welding techniques allows him to transform a heavy and resistant material into structures that seem to defy gravity. In works such as *Fuori diagonale* o *Tavola del deserto*, iron acquires symbolic resonance: passages, thresholds, archetypes linked to birth, journey, and spirituality. The void, the air, the internal space within the sculptures become essential constructive elements, contributing to a reflection on the balance between order and disorder, strength and lightness.

Riccardo De Marchi's research is founded on a gesture both elementary and radical: the hole. For over forty years, the artist has incised, perforated, and modulated surfaces of steel, aluminum, and plexiglass, constructing a personal language based on point, line, and plane. His works evoke ancient scripts, geoglyphs, musical scores, and natural phenomena, generating rhythmic sequences of voids and solids. De Marchi's "holes" are not absences but openings toward another space—an invitation to look beyond the surface and grasp the hidden order of reality.

With **Izumi Ōki**, matter becomes light. Her sculptures, made exclusively of glass, amplify space and engage in dialogue with architecture through transparencies, refractions, and luminous rhythms. Form arises from an inner necessity and translates into essential structures charged with spirituality. Works such as *Pensiero danzante*, *Onda architettonica* or *Torre cattedrale* transform glass into a poetic medium capable of uniting lightness, energy, and harmony, evoking a cosmic vision in which chaos and order achieve perfect balance.

In collaboration with the Archivio Giacomo Benevelli, and as part of the **Milano MuseoCity** project, the gallery also presents **Giacomo Benevelli**'s *Liaison #100*, created in Carrara marble.

The exhibition thus unfolds as an intense and cohesive journey in which contemporary sculpture reaffirms its role as a space for research, knowledge, and vision. Diverse materials and sensibilities converge in a shared tension toward the profound essence of matter and artistic creation.

Exhibition details
Title Cinque artisti per cinque materiali: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki
Curated by Luigi Sansone
Venue Paula Seegy Gallery, via San Maurilio 14 – Milan
Dates 5 February – 19 March 2026
Opening Thursday, 5 February, 6 pm
Opening hours Tuesday to Saturday, 12 pm – 7 pm
Admission Free
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