PRESS RELEASE

MARIA CRISTINA CARLINI. LA FORZA DELLE IDEE

curated by Vittoria Coen

5 May – 12 June 2022
Sala del Collezionista and Chiostro della Magnolia

5 May – 30 September
Chiostro della Magnolia

On display at Fondazione Stelline, a solo exhibition by Maria Cristina Carlini of monumental sculpture and previously unseen large and small-scale work, presented in the Sala del Collezionista and in the Chiostro della Magnolia.

[Milan, 12 April 2022] Large sculpture returns to **Fondazione Stelline** with the exhibition ***Maria Cristina Carlini. La forza delle idee***, curated by Vittoria Coen. This prestigious new solo show, held in the Sala del Collezionista and in the evocative Chiostro della Magnolia from 5 May to 12 June 2022 indoors and until 30 September outdoors, comprises monumental sculpture, together with large and small-scale works, in an extensive itinerary of numerous previously unseen and emotionally inspiring works.

The selection of work on show not only expresses the strength and tenacity of Carlini's production and the ideas that shape her materials, but also the space and time that transform them into universal sculpture, giving form, as the curator comments, «to the magic of a composition that creates a unique concert of cosmic vibrations». Maria Cristina Carlini has deepened her link with the earth and natural materials: archaic symbols capable of arousing often dormant ancestral memories, where individual and collective recollections become a key feature of her approach.

The exhibition route opens with *Scudi*, an installation from 1998 never previously shown. It consists of three high iron poles punctuated by polychrome modules that convey an intimate and ancient totemic value.

A scrupulous choice of materials and their juxtaposition has always been a distinguishing attribute of Maria Cristina Carlini's art. This is true of the sculpture *Philemon and Baucis* (2021), composed of two large discs of reclaimed wood, enhanced with rivulets and sponging in gold, and set in a supporting iron structure that secures them immobile in a suspended time.

The unstoppable flow of Carlini's imagination is revealed in the vibrant twisted stoneware and iron columns of *Castor and Pollux* (2022), an original and personal abstract work based on Greek myth, which evokes the earth and its strength as living matter in constant transformation.

Large works are interspersed with smaller, but no less important works from Carlini's production, such as *Libri* in sheet metal, or the tormented, unstable volumes of *Guerra*.

The exhibition culminates with *Prometheus* (2022), a succession of lights and shadows which release the power of history and its repetitions. Impressive yet fragile, the three tall excavated and illuminated trunks evoke memories and wounds from a forgotten but tangible past.

In the striking, historic setting of the Chiostro della Magnolia, the monumental sculptures installed on the lawn engage in an intriguing interaction with the architecture reflected in the still body of water of the *Phantoms of the Lake*: polychrome sheet metal modules that rise evanescent towards the sky. The sculpture *I guardiani del segreto* communes with the nature enclosed in the cloister, its reclaimed wood alternating with Corten steel in a superimposition of materials whose forms embody balance and harmony, qualities also found in *Incontro* – a succession of lines and volumes in continuous evolution.

Also on view is the docufilm ***Maria Cristina Carlini: Geologie, Memorie della terra*** produced by **Storyville** in 2020. This intimate look at the life of Maria Cristina Carlini at work in the unique atmosphere her studio is accompanied by her own narration as she tours her work.

The exhibition is accompanied by a short **bilingual** publication containing an introduction by Vittoria Coen and images of the work on display.

Maria Cristina Carlini *began her art career studying ceramics in Palo Alto, California. She later continued her practice in Brussels, where she also she taught the use of the potter's wheel. She subsequently moved to Milan, where she focused exclusively on sculpture. At this juncture, in addition to stoneware and terracotta, she began to work with materials such as iron, sheet metal, Corten steel and reclaimed wood. Her production ranges from small-scale to monumental work. Her career has been punctuated with awards and solo and group exhibitions in various public and private, national and international locations. Examples of her monumental sculpture are on permanent display in Europe, America and Asia. She currently lives and works in Milan, where her studio is a forge of creative activity.*
www.mariacristinacarlini.com

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5 May – 12 June 2022
Sala del Collezionista and Chiostro della Magnolia
5 May – 30 September
Chiostro della Magnolia
Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00–20.00 (closed Monday)
Free admission with obligatory Super Green Pass, FFP2 face mask and compliance with other regulations in force.
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MARIA CRISTINA CARLINI. LA FORZA DELLE IDEE
a cura di Vittoria Coen
Dal 5 maggio al 12 giugno 2022
Orario: martedì – domenica, h. 10.00-20.00 (chiuso il lunedì)
Ingresso gratuito, con obbligo di Green Pass Rafforzato e mascherine FFP2, o comunque come da disposizioni in vigore
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