

PAULA SEEGY

GALLERY

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Via San Maurilio, 14 – Milan

Maria Cristina Carlini. *Materia, Composizione, Architettura*

25 September – 8 November 2025

opening Thursday 25 September, 18:00

in the presence of the artist

press release, 24.07.25

The exhibition season at **Paula Seegy Gallery** opens with the solo exhibition *Maria Cristina Carlini. Materia, Composizione, Architettura* [Maria Cristina Carlini: Matter, Composition, Architecture] from **25 September to the 8 November 2025**. The show brings together a selection of **emblematic works** by the artist, one of the most influential figures in contemporary Italian sculpture, who for decades has been investigating matter and the relationship between art and nature.

The exhibition itinerary, which includes a number of works shown for the first time, is composed of **stoneware sculptures** juxtaposed with **collages and large-scale drawings** in mixed-media, illustrating Carlini's range of expressive forms and materials. The starting point is earth, Carlini's preferred element, which she uses to reveal an ancestral connection, expressed in works that transmit strength and solidity. In addition to the powerful material impact of stoneware works such as *Paesaggio etrusco* [Etruscan Landscape, 2004] and the sculpture *Verso l'infinito* [Towards Infinity, 2010], Carlini also explores time, the past, memory, and the impetus towards the future, all cornerstones of her artistic practice. Whereas in *Paesaggio etrusco* close attention is paid to the artefact, to forgotten symbolic forms and to the revival of lost compositional signs, the enigmatic aura of the sculpture *Verso l'Infinito* brings us back to the present day and visionary architecture in the form of a staircase. With its partially concealed endpoint, undefined destination and steps that decrease in size until they reach the 'unknown', it represents a bridge to future times. A new work also moves in the same direction: *Origine* [Origin, 2025] displays a direct connection to natural elements and atavistic memories, yet at the same time it is an invitation to reflect on the fragility of nature and the need to protect the environment.

In her **wall works**, Carlini experiments with various media, from paper and cardboard to wood, bark and recycled materials, which are transformed into objects with clear references to architectural structures. This can be seen in the four works entitled *Cattedrale* [Cathedral, 2020] and also in *Studio Monumento al Mediterraneo* [Study for Monument to the Mediterranean, 2005] and *Studio Stracci* [Study for Rags, 2006], where a concise, linear compositional style either recalls buildings and monuments from urban contexts or works created by Carlini herself. In contrast, the collages in the evocative series *Omaggio a Kiefer* [Homage to Kiefer, 2023] take the form of rural scenes or landscapes of the soul, reflecting her close affinity to the aesthetic of the German artist, which, like hers, is closely linked to the themes of time and memory.

The exhibition *Maria Cristina Carlini: Materia, Composizione, Architettura* offers viewers the coherence and poetic power of an artist who uses a diversity of materials, techniques and dimensions to make matter itself the absolute protagonist: a living trace of a profound dialogue between memory, art and nature.

Biographical notes

Sculptor Maria Cristina Carlini began her artistic career in the early 1970s, working with ceramics in Palo Alto, California. She later expanded her practice to include a diversity of materials, including stoneware, iron, Corten steel and reclaimed wood.

She has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions at various public and private venues in Italy and abroad, winning awards and honours. Her monumental sculptures are on permanent display on three continents: Europe, America and Asia. In January 2025, she officially opened to the public Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS, established with the aim of preserving and promoting the vast artistic and documentary heritage she has created over more than fifty years of work.

Numerous publications have marked Maria Cristina Carlini's artistic career and distinguished critics have written about her, among them Paolo Campiglio, Luciano Caramel, Claudio Cerritelli, Vittoria Coen, Guo Xiao Chuan, Martina Corgnati, Gillo Dorfles, Carlo Franza, Maria Fratelli, Chiara Gatti, Flaminio Gualdoni, Yacouba Konaté, Frédérique Malaval, Laurence Pauliac, Elena Pontiggia, and Cortney Stell.

She lives and works in Milan. www.mariacristinacarlini.com

Exhibition details

Title Maria Cristina Carlini. Materia, Composizione, Architettura

Venue Paula Seegy Gallery, via San Maurilio 14 - Milan

Date 25 September – 8 November 2025

Exhibition opening Thursday 25 September, 18:00

Opening hours Tuesday to Friday, 12:00 – 19:00

Free admission

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