

## **Horti dell'Almo Collegio Borromeo**

viale Lungo Ticino Sforza, 46 - Pavia

### **The sculpture "Origine" by Maria Cristina Carlini in the permanent exhibition of the Horti**

*sculpture from 2019, 7 stoneware columns in mixed technique  
height from 340 to 230 cm, base 230 x 150 cm*

#### **Opening**

**Sunday, June 21, 2026 at 4 p.m.**

With the participation of

**Maria Cristina Carlini**

*artist*

**Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**

*contemporary art critic*

**Alberto Lolli**

*director of Horti*

*press release, May 18, 2026*

The art collection of **Horti dell'Almo Collegio Borromeo in Pavia** is expanding with the addition of the monumental sculpture *Origine* (2019) by sculptor **Maria Cristina Carlini**, which now joins the park's permanent exhibition.

The artwork, granted on loan through the **Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS**, is located near the urban entrance of the Horti, at a crossroads and meeting point for visitors.

The **opening event**, titled *"The sculpture 'Origine' by Maria Cristina Carlini in the permanent exhibition of the Horti"*, is scheduled for **Sunday, 21 June** at 4:00 p.m. The artist will be in attendance alongside **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, Art Director of the Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS, and **Alberto Lolli**, Rector of the Almo Collegio Borromeo and Director of Horti.

The event is part of the *Horti in Estate* programme, a festival running from 19 to 21 June that will offer visitors cultural encounters, workshops, musical performances, and convivial gatherings.

Comprising seven polychrome stoneware columns, crafted using mixed media and standing over three metres tall, *Origine* develops vertically through a succession of ceramic discs individually shaped by the artist. The vibrant surface of the material, rippled with nuances and chromatic variations, evokes a totemic and primordial dimension. The upward tension, the earthy physicality of the material, and the modular rhythm of the columns recall an idea of origin understood as a universal, shared experience deeply bound to the history of humanity.

*«The appropriately selected artwork by Maria Cristina Carlini»* comments Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico *«settles admirably within the outdoor exhibition spaces of the Horti, in full harmony, creating an original aesth-ethical dialogue between the retentissement of the observer - as Bachelard would say - and the ancestral resonance of works, monuments and landscape»*.

In Maria Cristina Carlini's research, matter retains the traces of time, ancestral memories, and symbolic stratifications that dialogue with the present. Having always been attentive to the themes of nature, balance, and environmental preservation, the artist prefers natural and reclaimed materials, transforming them into sculptural presences charged with energy and memory. Indeed, memory is one of the central pillars of Carlini's artistic exploration, leading her to ask: *«What would we be without memory?»*. This tension runs through her entire body of work, translating into a continuous attempt to return to the origins of existence through matter.

Alberto Lolli welcomes the artwork with these words: *«Origine breathes earth, fire, and spirit, in a breath that traverses ancestral times: distant, yet never concluded. Within the Horti - a suspended place, an "other" space - the artwork becomes the presence of a different time, where the encounter between human and natural occurs just as in ceramics: in the earth that receives the gesture, in the water that makes it possible, in the fire that transforms it. A slow and necessary time, made of full gestures and light caresses. Fire preserves and changes, fixes memory in matter, leaving traces, fractures, and unrepeatable gleams. It is a making that settles into time, retains its signs, and continues to flow without seeking a destination. "Origine" silently calls us to remember the matter of which we are made».*

The installation is situated at a crucial nexus between the *cardo* – the main axis crossing the park – and the path leading from the urban gates to the Orto degli Aromi, allowing visitors to observe the work from different perspectives.

In the immediate vicinity of *Origine* lies the archaeological area containing the remains of the 12th-century Church of San Marco in Monte Bertone, where excavation work is currently underway in collaboration with the University of Pavia.

The artwork thus enters into a dialogue with the landscape, with the other installations in the park, and with the ethical dimension that characterises the Horti project - a place where contemporary art, social inclusion, and community care intertwine in a shared narrative.

A leading figure in contemporary Italian sculpture, **Maria Cristina Carlini** has been active since the 1970s. Following her beginnings in ceramics in Palo Alto, California, she developed a sculptural practice based on the use of materials such as stoneware, iron, Corten steel and reclaimed wood, crafting a language centred on the dialogue between matter, memory and transformation. Her works have been exhibited in major public and private institutions across Europe, the United States and Asia, where numerous monumental installations are permanently sited. In 2026, several of her sculptures were selected for SUSTART 2026 at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, as part of an international dialogue dedicated to the relationship between contemporary art, culture and sustainability. From 9 July to 30 August 2026, the Palazzo Reale in Milan is hosting the exhibition "Materie viventi" the Courtyard of Honour and the Garden, where her monumental works can be admired.

**Horti dell'Almo Collegio Borromeo** is a natural oasis overlooking the Ticino River, proposes a new model of living and building community. They were founded as a third mission project of the Almo Collegio Borromeo, the oldest merit-based university college in Italy. Subsequently, the reorganization process led to the establishment of the **Fondazione Horti ETS**, whose objectives are: protecting the environment, safeguarding plant and bird biodiversity, combating cultural poverty, supporting artistic creativity, encouraging social responsibility and solidarity, fostering inclusion and social aggregation, and promoting the vision of a multicultural reality open to diversity. To this end, Horti Bistrot was created in order to shorten social distances, generate new employment opportunities, and offer professional training pathways dedicated to the most vulnerable individuals.

To foster the dissemination and understanding of contemporary art languages, Horti hosts a collection of works by **nationally and internationally renowned artists**: *Accademia di Aracne, Sergio Alberti, Ferruccio Ascari, Nicola Carrino, Salvatore Cuschera, Giovanna Fra, Alberto Ghinzani, Ivan, Jannis Kounellis, Marco Lodola, Luigi Mainolfi, Giulia Mangoni, Gianfranco Pardi, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Costantino Ruggeri, Mauro Staccioli, and David Tremlett.*

The public can thus admire, reflect upon, and engage in dialogue with the works that compose the permanent artistic route, which makes Horti predominantly an open-air exhibition of **big sculptures and wall-drawings**.

**Event details**

**Title** The sculpture "Origine" by Maria Cristina Carlini in the permanent exhibition of the Horti

**Venue** Horti, viale Lungo Ticino Sforza, 46 - Pavia

**Permanent installation inauguration date** dSunday, 21 June - 4 p.m.

**Park opening hours** visit the website [www.horti.it](http://www.horti.it)

**Free** admission

**Public information** [www.horti.it](http://www.horti.it) – [info@horti.it](mailto:info@horti.it)

**Press office for Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS****IBC Irma Bianchi Communication**

Via Arena 16/1 – Milan

Irma Bianchi mob. +39 335 8315232 – tel. +39 02 8940 4694

[info@irmabianchi.it](mailto:info@irmabianchi.it) – [www.irmabianchi.it](http://www.irmabianchi.it)

**Press office for Horti dell'Almo Collegio Borromeo**

[promozione@horti.it](mailto:promozione@horti.it)