

MAURIZIO MOCHETTI

Maurizio Mochetti (Rome, 1940) is an eclectic figure, one of the most interesting of the conceptual artists. A selection of his works, chosen from the many created by him over a fifty-year period, is on exhibit at the MAAB gallery in Milan.

Since the mid-1960s, his artistic exploration has involved a combination of theory and practice. It surpasses the concept of a delimited, static pictorial space to favour a broader and more dynamic approach that goes beyond the symbolic meaning of matter.

Art is the idea, he states in one of his writings, *and the tools, the materials, the technology are functional to making the idea a reality*. This statement opens the way to the perfectible, to an investigation into the verifiability and scientific accuracy of insights from the field of artistic experimentation. He is interested in the relationship between art and science, and has always investigated space and matter using sophisticated technical tools such as lasers.

In the Milanese exhibition, the public will have the chance to see such works as *Sfere - Travaso di luce [Spheres - Transfer of light]* (1970), already exhibited at the Burri Foundation. This consists of two white spheres that have a close relationship by way of the intensity of the light: when one acquires it, the other loses it, in a proportional and reciprocal dialectical dependence. Another sphere, black this time, is penetrated by a laser beam which rebounds inside it and escapes in another random direction (*Rimbalzi all'interno di una sfera [Rebounding within a Sphere]* (1989).

His curiosity and passion for flight, speed and airplanes, particularly for some experimental models such as the Bachem Natters, are an important part of Mochetti's artistic-scientific experimentation. For *Bang – da una dimensione all'altra [Bang – from one dimension to another]* (2016), a Bachem Natter 349b interceptor fighter is placed on the wall, inscribed in a circle that condenses the surrounding space and represents the breaking of the sound barrier, as well as the exhibition support itself. Also on exhibit are the geometries and elusive colours of the *Camouflages*, inspired by the traditional war techniques for deterring ballistic targets: starting with the deconstruction of the shape of the planes, for the occasion they are presented in their most minimal version, in four white silhouettes placed on the wall, made in 1982.

An important catalogue, with a critical text by Massimiliano Scuderi, will complement the exhibition.

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Maurizio Mochetti is born in 1940 in Rome, where he lives and works. In 1968 he made his debut on the Roman art scene with the solo exhibition *Dieci progetti di Maurizio Mochetti* at Galleria La Salita. In 1970 he participated in his first Biennale di Venezia, that will be followed by those of 1978, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1997. Since the 70s he faced the international scene by participating at the Sydney Biennale (1976), at the International Biennale of Nagoya (1991) and at the XXIV Bienal de São Paulo (1998). He held shows in important exhibition spaces, such as Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome, Palacio de Cristal in Madrid, Palazzo Grassi in Venice, Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum of Eindhoven, Stadtische Kunsthalle of Düsseldorf, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Centro Cultural del Conde Duque in Madrid, Fondazione Prada in Milano and National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome. Important retrospective exhibitions were held at the Palazzo Ducale in Sassuolo (2003) and at the Palazzo Collicola of Spoleto (2009).

Hard Facts

MAAB Gallery, Milano

Via Nerino 3 – 20123 Milano

From September 7th to October 29th 2020

From Monday to Friday, 10.30 am – 6 pm

Information

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