

ALBERTO BIASI

Exhibition March 27 until June 27, 2015

Curator : Serge Lemoine



Alberto Biasi in his workshop in Padua in 2009
Courtesy Archivio Alberto Biasi, photo by Giancarlo Gennaro



Alberto Biasi, *Senza titolo*, 1998
acrylic on canvas, cm 60 x 60 / in 23.6 x 23.6
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art

From March 27 until June 27, 2015 Tornabuoni Art has the pleasure of announcing an exhibition dedicated to the Italian artist, Alberto Biasi. Organized in close collaboration with the artist, this will be his first solo show with Tornabuoni Art Paris, centered on the important role he played and continues to play today in Kinetic art.

The exhibition brings together emblematic artworks of Alberto Biasi's lifelong commitment to the study of movement started in 1959 when he founded *Gruppo N*. This selection of works shows the artist's will to question the traditional conception of painting by challenging the "classic" perspective and focusing his attention on retinal experiments and visual effects of his works.

Born in 1937 in Padua, Alberto Biasi was among the top-level class of Industrial Design at the Institute of Architecture in Venice and co-founded *Gruppo N* in 1959 with Ennio Chiggio, Toni Costa, Edoardo Landi and Alfredo Massironi. With them he conducted his first "optico-dynamic" experiments that brought him to participate in 1960 in exhibitions dedicated to lumino-kinetic art alongside Enrico Castellani, Piero Manzoni and artists of the *New Artistic Conceptions* and *Nuove Tendenze* (New Art Practice) movements.

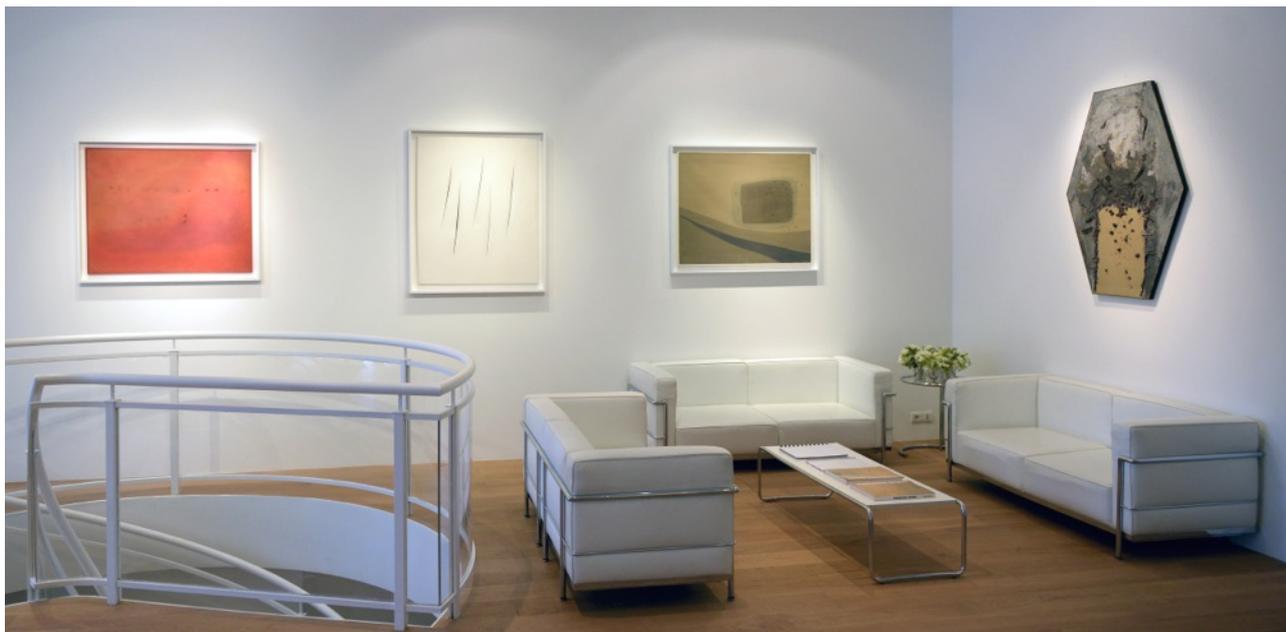
In the beginning of the 1960s, he began his study of the *Trame* (Wefts), superimpositions of cotton gauzes, metallic wiring or perforated postcards, gradually twisted to form variable and progressive constellations. He continued his work through the 2000s with his *Rilievi ottico-dinamici* (Optico-dynamic Reliefs) where lines and light intertwine and appear to be on the same level even though they are separated by a few centimeters. He paid tribute to Lucio Fontana in his 1960 *Torsioni* (Twists) where the canvases were entirely cut into strips, then recomposed to form different shapes and torsions. The torsions seem to change according to the viewer's position in front of the canvas, creating moving geometrical configurations. Later came the *Ambienti* (Spaces), seen as experimental spaces where the image of a drawing coexists with reality, offering the viewer the feeling of visual, spatial and temporal instability.

The gallery will be presenting for the first time outside of Italy, *Light Prisms*, exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 1964 and at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome in 1970. *Light Prisms*, installed in a dark room specially made for this occasion, required a year and a half's worth of work and is made of mixed media such as wood, plastic, glass and methacrylate, electric motors and light projectors. The artwork that Biasi calls *Fenêtre sur arc-en-ciel* (Window on a rainbow) is a shifting composition made of rays of light that continuously appear and disappear and change colours. These rainbow light effects reveal the artwork to the spectator and testify Alberto Biasi's talent to translate new and original images in a non-pictorial way.

Following the dissolution of the *Gruppo N* in 1967, Alberto Biasi started a more personal research on forms and movement with his *Politipi* (Polyptychs), a complex cycle he continued to work on through the 1990s in which he gradually adds color and more figurative shapes. Since the early 2000s, Biasi has been synthesizing his multiple experiments that have contributed to the international recognition of Kinetic Art, creating in particular the *Assemblaggi* (Assemblages), primarily diptychs and triptychs made of plastic and impressive colours.

As well as the 12 exhibitions in which he participated with the *Gruppo N*, Biasi has had more than 20 solo shows and has participated in more than 400 group shows such as the Venice Biennale, The São Paulo Art Biennale, the Rome Quadriennale and more recently at the Musée Tinguely in Basel (2014) and during the *AZIMUT/H. Continuità e nuovo* exhibition at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice.

ABOUT TORNABUONI ART



View of Tornabuoni Art gallery in Paris, exhibition *Lucio Fontana: rediscovery of a masterpiece*, 2014
Courtesy Tornabuoni Art

Tornabuoni Arte was founded in 1981 by Roberto Casamonti and is specialized in Italian art of the second half of the 20th Century. It established exhibition spaces in Milan in 1995, Portofino in 2001, Forte Dei Marmi in 2004 and on October 1st 2009 in Paris, 16 avenue Matignon in the 8th district.

Tornabuoni Art in Paris presents the work of Fontana, Castellani, Manzoni, Dorazio, Bonalumi, Dadamaino and Boetti together with the major protagonists of the Italian Novecento such as De Chirico, Morandi, Balla, Severeni and Sironi. The gallery also proposes works of essential artists of the 20th Century such as Picasso, Mirò, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Wesselmann, Warhol and Basquiat.

Since inaugurating its Parisian space in 2009 with an exhibition dedicated to Lucio Fontana, Tornabuoni Art has organized numerous monographic exhibitions, always in close consultation with the artists or the foundations that represent them. The gallery has shown the works of Alighiero Boetti (2010), Arnaldo Pomodoro (2011), Enrico Castellani (2011), Mimmo Rotella (2012), Giuseppe Capogrossi (2013), Dadamaino (2013), the exceptional exhibition *Lucio Fontana, rediscovery of a masterpiece* in parallel with the retrospective at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris and more recently the first retrospective in France of Turi Simeti (2014).

Besides these solo shows, the gallery also presents group shows such as *The Monochrome Under Pressure* (2012), *Bianco Italia* (2013), *Between Sign and Writing: a path through Italian art* (2014) or *Ceci n'est pas une idée* (2015) brought together by different curators who are given carte blanche, each show offering a unique approach to the gallery's collection. The gallery has added a touch of contemporary art to the family tradition and love for Italian art in particular with the artist Francesca Pasquali.

The gallery wishes to offer a new visibility to the artists it represents with its soon to be opened exhibition space on 46 Albemarle Street, in the area of Mayfair, London, an important meeting point for the European and American art market.

Many museums have come to the gallery for expertise and guidance and with its experience and thorough knowledge of the work of the artists it represents, the gallery has established itself as advisor for both private and public collections.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Exhibition *Alberto Biasi*, March 27 to June 27, 2015
The catalogue of the exhibition, with texts by Serge Lemoine, will be available at the gallery

NEWS

Ceci n'est pas une idée
Until March 6, 2015

TEFAF, Maastricht
March 13-22, 2015
Booth 526

Art Basel, Hong Kong
March 15-17, 2015
Booth 3D32

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