

Bianco Italia

April 26th – July 13th 2013

Exhibition curator: Dominique Stella



Piero Manzoni, *Achrome*, 1958-59,
30x40 cm, Kaolin on canvas

Lucio Fontana was one of the first artists to experiment white monochrome idea before this research theme became emblematic for the artists of the **AZIMUTH** group and later for those that were part of the **ARTE POVERA** movement.

This original experiment is today recognised as an **essential language of the 20th century art**. Around this shared reference, the artists have tried using various materials: canvas, marble, salt, kaolin, cotton, neon, ice etc.

“Bianco Italia”, Tornabuoni Art’s new exhibition, will enable the public to understand how significant this “uncolored” experimentation was for the next generation of artists who followed in the footsteps of **the Italian pioneers of the 1950’s**. This exhibition will present around 60 pieces to best illustrate the great white adventure.

Exhibition catalogue (bilingual: French-English)

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According to Lucio Fontana, white represents the immaculate immensity of the experimental spaces yet to be conquered – the “tabula rasa” – but also the powerful synthesis that the color symbolizes. Fontana’s *Ambienti spaziali* were **the ultimate playground for artistic experiments**, where he materialized his investigations on light, opening the way to the idea of total art, which unites painting, sculpture, architecture and design, and united the young generation of artists who took the center stage in the mid-1950’s, in search of an artistic, spiritual and intellectual adventure.

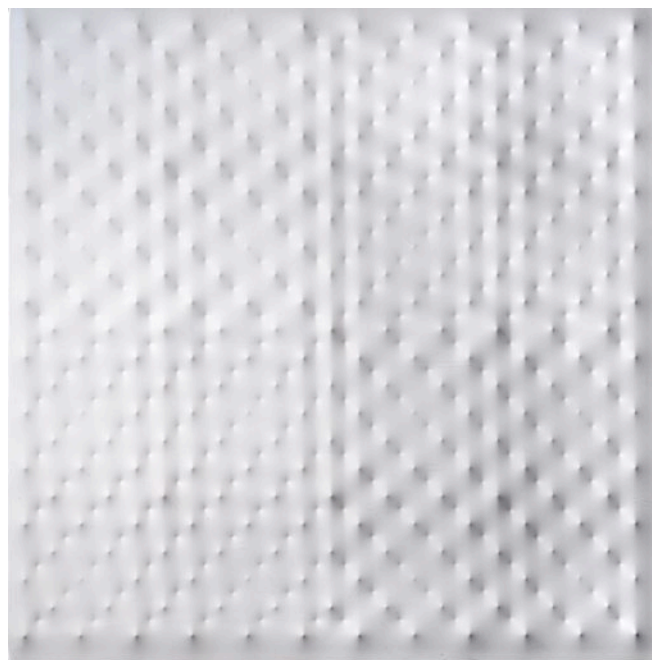


Lucio Fontana
Concetto spaziale, 1962
81 x 100 cm, huile, trou et graffiti sur toile

In Milan, **Piero Manzoni** and **Enrico Castellani** (founders of the *Azimuth* journal in 1959) with **Agostino Bonalumi** were the first to be influenced by Lucio Fontana’s revolutionary way of thinking:

- **Piero Manzoni** started by creating *Achromes*: uncolored paintings, dipped in plaster or kaolin, ruffled, dried and devoid of all pictorial signs. From the 1960’s on, he enriched the notion of *Achrome* by indefinitely repeating the procedure, only changing the materials he used (cotton, small balls of styrofoam, small Italian bread rolls frozen in fiberglass plastic, etc.).

- **Enrico Castellani’s** surface is dedicated to flexibility, an elastic body that captures light through its relief. Castellani’s has many times talked about the importance of color in general and white in particular: “*For me, white is not a color but the absence of color. When I work on the surfaces of my paintings I try to create something as objective as possible. I do the same with color. White is the color, or more precisely the non-color, that enables objectification as well as possible.*”



Enrico Castellani
Superficie bianca, 2001
Acrylique sur toile enfoncée et soulevée, 180 x 180 cm



Salvatore Scarpitta, *Sans titre*, 1958,
Bandes et technique mixte, 66 x 81 cm



Pier Paolo Calzolari, *Omaggio a Fontana*, 1987
Cuivre, plomb, fer et moteur, 213 x 200 cm

The young generation that followed in their footsteps: **Gianni Colombo, Dadamaino, Vincenzo Agnetti, Turi Simeti, Nanda Vigo**. Then, the artists of *Arte Povera* have made it a significant subject of research: **Alighiero Boetti, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Pino Pascali, Jannis Kounellis, Mario Ceroli**.

From Rome, with **Alberto Burri and Giuseppe Capogrossi** to Düsseldorf with the artists of the ZERO group: **Gunther Uecker, Heinz Mack, Otto Piene** and the United States with **Salvatore Scarpitta**, the idea of white monochrome, born in Milan at the end of the 50's, has left an indelible mark in the history of art of the past 50 years.

This exhibition conceived by Tornabuoni Art, under the direction of Dominique Stella, temporarily reconstructs this itinerary from first creations to today. Pieces from contemporary artists such as **Pablo Atchugarry, Patrizio Travagli and Francesca Pasquali** will also be presented in the show.

Exhibited artists : Vincenzo Agnetti, Pablo Atchugarry, Alberto Biasi, Alighiero Boetti, Agostino Bonalumi, Alberto Burri, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Giuseppe Capogrossi, Enrico Castellani, Mario Ceroli, Gianni Colombo, Dadamaino, Lucio Fontana, Jannis Kounellis, Piero Manzoni, Fabio Mauri, Giulio Paolini, Francesca Pasquali, Angelo Savelli, Salvatore Scarpitta, Paolo Scheggi, Turi Simeti, Patrizio Travagli, Nanda Vigo

ABOUT THE GALLERY

The Tornabuoni Art Gallery in Paris opened on October 1st in 2009 with a successful exhibition dedicated to Lucio Fontana, followed by a retrospective on Alighiero Boetti during Spring 2010. The cultural approach of the gallery is to organize significant retrospectives on major Italian post-war artists and group shows on essential international artists from the 20th century.

Highly specialized in Italian Art from the second half of the 20th century (Fontana, Castellani, Manzoni, Dorazio, Bonalumi, Dadamaino, Boetti), Tornabuoni Art also proposes permanent shows of international avant-garde artists of the 20th century (Picasso, Miró, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Wesselmann, Warhol, and Basquiat, just to name a few) as well as by the main artists of the Italian *Novecento* (De Chirico, Morandi, Balla, Severini and Sironi).

Tornabuoni Art Gallery participates in international art fairs such as FIAC and Biennale des Antiquaires in Paris, TEFAF in Maastricht, Frieze Masters in London, Art Basel Miami Beach, Art Hong Kong, Artefiera in Bologna.