

Turin, May 6, 2008

**PRESS RELEASE**

**SUBTLE ENERGIES OF MATTER**

**The Chinese leg of Subtle Energies of Matter comes to a close in Shenzhen**

**The international exhibition of contemporary sculpture organised by the IGAV Association compares and contrasts different generations of Italian artists**

**Shenzhen**

He Xiangning Art Museum

**May 15 – June 25, 2008**

The international tour of the *Subtle Energies of Matter* group show is about to make another stop: **hot on the heels of Shanghai (January 16 – February 23) and Beijing (March 7 – April 1), the exhibition is now set to be staged in China's third most important city. From May 15 to June 25, one of the most prestigious museums in southern China – the He Xiangning Art Museum (Overseas Chinese Town) – will play host to the work of the Italian artists. The inauguration is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, at 4pm. A press conference will be held at the same venue at 2pm.**

Contemporary sculpture – encapsulated in moulded forms that are brought to life by the *Subtle Energies of Matter* – is the focus of this new international exhibition of Italian artists, organised by the **Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts (IGAV for short)**, a non-profit body launched in Turin, Italy, in 2005.

**Orchestrated in collaboration with Italian national daily *Il Sole 24 Ore*, with contributions from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Piedmont Region, with sponsorship courtesy of Toro Assicurazioni and Arte in Movimento, and under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture and Turin City Council, *Subtle Energies of Matter* signals the return of IGAV to the Orient just a little over a year since the successful staging of *Nature and Metamorphosis* as part of the *Italy in China: 2006* initiative.**

The exhibition in Shenzhen coincides with the International Culture Industry Expo. The staging of the show in Shenzhen has been organised in partnership with the He Xiangning Museum, the Italian Embassy in Beijing and the Italian Consul General in Canton.

*Subtle Energies of Matter* showcases the work of thirty-one artists representing a range of generations, including several of the acknowledged masters who have paved the way towards a new take on the plastic arts and a number of emerging artists who have recently taken this poetics to extremes.

This touring exhibition, curated by Marisa Vescovo, is geared towards highlighting how, since the dawn of the avant-garde, Italian artists have developed a tendency to play with the lightness of a multiplicity of materials, which – even while classically 'heavy', such as iron or lead – have the capacity to lose their

substantiality and to become suspended in space.

The illustrious masters taking part include **Roberto Almagno, Pietro Consagra, Riccardo Cordero, Piero Fogliati, Marco Gastini, Luigi Mainolfi, Gino Marotta, Eliseo Mattiacci, Fausto Melotti, Vittorio Messina, Nunzio, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Penone, Sandro Sanna and Gilberto Zorio**, whereas amongst the group of emerging artists there are some of the most promising names in contemporary sculpture, including **Nicola Bolla, Gianni Caravaggio, Caretto and Spagna, Filippo Centenari, Christian Frosi, Francesco Gennari, Paolo Grassino, Isola and Norzi, Raffaele Luongo, Marco Nereo Rotelli, Paolo Piscitelli, Perino and Vele, Viviana Ravaioli, Saverio Todaro, Luisa Valentini and Fabio Viale**.

This is the final stop on the Chinese leg of the *Subtle Energies of Matter* tour, which will visit other prestigious venues in Asia over the coming months. The next scheduled stop is Seoul, as part of the year-long *Italy in Korea* initiative, where the exhibition will be the only showcase for contemporary art out of all the events being organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As curator **Marisa Vescovo** explains: *“We have witnessed how the term ‘sculpture’, in the present day, is no longer able to encompass all of the modes of production adopted by today’s artists: creating channels for other materials, constructing forms that can react to the movement of real and artificial light, enlarging environmental and imaginary spaces by including icons and sounds emitted by the mass media. The heterogeneous nature of three-dimensional works of art produced in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries touches on areas of great poignancy. We find not only mixed media, but also hybrid genres that use different languages, like rocket-fuelled escapes from all pre-defined patterns. We are subject to social and existential influences that throw together art, daily life and culture into an ongoing mélange that knows no end”*.

**Rosalba Garuzzo**, President of IGAV – the non-profit body that she founded, along with her husband Giorgio Garuzzo, in an effort to provide support to the recent generations of Italian artists by giving them greater visibility and spotlighting their work on the international art scene – comments: *“In line with the mission that we decided to set for our Institute, based on our experiences and on the expertise we acquired as collectors and art lovers, this initiative, like its predecessors before it, is geared towards sensitising the public about the contemporary art being produced in Italy; in particular, Subtle Energies of Matter is an attempt to remind the world how Italy, with its plethora of natural resources and wealth of technical and industrial skill, has served, over many centuries, as a frame of reference for artists from every corner of the globe, from Michelangelo to Henry Moore”*.

IGAV’s profile in China has been enhanced greatly by *Subtle Energies of Matter*. Thanks to the rapturous reception given to this second Chinese excursion by both public and critics alike, it will now be easier for exhibitions organised by the Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts to become a fixture in the Chinese art calendar, with the potential for an event focusing on contemporary Italian art to be staged every two years.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

- **TITLE:** “Subtle Energies of Matter”
- **VENUE:** Shanghai, **SUPEC** – Urban Planning Exhibition Center (100 People Avenue); Beijing, **China National Academy of Painting** (54 Xi San Huan Bei Road); Shenzhen, He Xiangning Art Museum (9013 Overseas Chinese Town)
- **DURATION:** Shanghai, January 16 – February 23, 2008; Beijing, March 7 – April 1, 2008; Shenzhen, May 15 – June 25, 2008
- **ARTISTS:** Roberto Almagno, Nicola Bolla, Gianni Caravaggio, Pietro Consagra, Caretto and Spagna, Filippo Centenari, Riccardo Cordero, Piero Fogliati, Christian Frosi, Marco Gastini, Francesco Gennari, Paolo Grassino, Isola and Norzi, Raffaele Luongo, Luigi Mainolfi, Eliseo Mattiacci, Fausto Melotti, Vittorio Messina, Nunzio, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Penone, Perino and Vele, Paolo Piscitelli, Viviana Ravaioli, Marco Nereo Rotelli, Sandro Sanna, Saverio Todaro, Luisa Valentini, Fabio Viale, Gilberto Zorio
- **CURATOR:** Marisa Vescovo
- **EXECUTIVE CURATOR:** Alessandro Carrer
- **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Renato Barilli, Maurizio Calvesi, Pier Giovanni Castagnoli, Marco Meneguzzo, Marisa Vescovo
- **CONCEPT AND IMPLEMENTATION:** Istituto Garuzzo Per le Arti Visive, IGAV – Via Martiri della Libertà 5 - 10131 Turin, Italy - tel. +39 011 19781500 - [www.igav-art.org](http://www.igav-art.org).
- **IN COLLABORATION WITH:** Il Sole 24 Ore
- **WITH THE SUPPORT OF:** the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Piedmont Region
- **UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF:** the Italian Ministry of Culture, Turin City Council
- **OFFICIAL SPONSORS:** Toro Assicurazioni, Arte in Movimento

**For more information:**

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