



Istituto Garuzzo per le Arti Visive (IGAV)

PRESS RELEASE

IGAV sets its sights on Beijing

Different generations of Italian artists compared and contrasted in a major exhibition of contemporary sculpture in the Chinese capital

Beijing

China National Academy of Painting

March 7 - April 1, 2008

Subtle Energies of Matter is about to open in Beijing. **Hot-on-the-heels of the Shanghai leg (January 13 to February 23), the exhibition is now heading for the Chinese capital: from March 7 to April 1, it will be staged in Beijing (at the China National Academy of Painting, 54 Xi San Huan Bei Road). The inauguration is scheduled for Thursday, March 6 at 3pm.**

Contemporary sculpture – encapsulated in moulded forms and 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. This, the second exhibition staged by IGAV in China, is another indication of the Institute's far-sighted approach.

The work of thirty-one artists is showcased in this touring exhibition, which opened in Shanghai – at the Urban Planning Exhibition Center – on January 15, 2008. From the outset, *Subtle Energies of Matter* was rapturously received by the public and given substantial media exposure.

The idea underpinning *Subtle Energies of Matter* is to highlight 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' – have the capacity to lose their substantiality and to become suspended in space.

The exhibition includes works by several of the acknowledged masters who have paved the way towards a new take on the plastic arts, such as **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.**

Alongside them, the exhibition also features works by a number of emerging artists who have recently taken this poetics to extremes: **Nicola Bolla, Gianni Caravaggio, Caretto and Spagna, Filippo Centenari, Christian Frosi, Francesco Gennari, Paolo Grassino, Isola and Norzi, Roberto Luongo, Marco Nereo Rotelli, Paolo Piscitelli, Perino and Vele, Viviana Ravaioli, Saverio Todaro, Luisa Valentini and Fabio Viale.**

The exhibition will see each artist present one or two finished pieces, accompanied by early versions, models and photographs, in order to give visitors a more comprehensive vision of the various artistic processes and expressive languages deployed.



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Orchestrated in collaboration with Italian national daily *Il Sole 24 Ore*, with contributions from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Piedmont Region 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.

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 20th and 21st 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 Turin-based IGAV – the non-profit body launched in 2005 by Giorgio and Rosalba 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*”.

Thanks to *Nature and Metamorphosis*, and now also to *Subtle Energies of Matter*, new opportunities for engagement with China are being opened up. The success of this second Oriental trip reinforces the possibility 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.



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EXHIBITION INFORMATION

- **TITLE:** “Subtle Energies of Matter”
- **VENUES:** Shanghai, **SUPEC** - Urban Planning Exhibition Center (100 People Avenue);
Beijing, **China National Academy of Painting** (54 Xi San Huan Bei Road)
- **DURATION:** Shanghai, January 16 – February 23, 2008; Beijing, March 7 – April 1, 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.
- **IN PARTNERSHIP 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

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