

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Different generations of Italian artists compared and contrasted in a large-scale exhibition of contemporary sculpture in China**

**“SUBTLE ENERGIES OF MATTER”**

**Shanghai**  
**Urban Planning Exhibition Center**  
**January 16 - February 23, 2008**

**Beijing**  
**China National Academy of Painting**  
**March 7 - April 1, 2008**

Contemporary sculpture encapsulated in moulded forms that are brought to life by the *Subtle Energies of Matter*: with a new, ambitious exhibition of Italian artists, the **Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts (IGAV)** – a non-profit body launched in Turin, Italy, in 2005 – continues its far-sighted approach by organising a second initiative in China.

Featuring the work of **thirty-one artists**, this touring group show opened at Shanghai’s Urban Planning Exhibition Center on January 15, 2008, and has not only proved to be a **tremendous success with the Chinese public but has also received a great deal of media attention.**

**The exhibition will remain on show in Shanghai until February 23, after which it will transfer to the Chinese capital: from March 7 to April 1, *Subtle Energies of Matter* will be staged at the China National Academy of Painting in Beijing.**

**The idea underpinning the *Subtle Energies of Matter* exhibition** is to highlight the extent to which the techniques and poetics of sculpture have been transformed since the dawn of the avant-garde and how sculptors have developed a tendency to play with the lightness of a multiplicity of materials, which – while classically ‘heavy’ – also have the capacity to lose their substantiality and to be suspended in space.

The exhibition features some of the acknowledged masters who have paved the way towards a new take on the plastic arts: **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, there is a group 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, 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 what goes into the creation of a sculpture, which techniques and processes are used on the materials and how the artistic process gives form to the poetics of each artist.

**Orchestrated in collaboration with Italian national daily *Il Sole 24 Ore*, with sponsorship from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute of Italian Culture in Shanghai 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*, the exhibition held in Shanghai and Beijing – to a rapturous reception from both public and critics alike – 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 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”*.

Thanks to *Nature and Metamorphosis*, and now also to *Subtle Energies of Matter*, new opportunities for collaboration with China are being opened up. The success of this second exhibition is laying the groundwork for the Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts (IGAV) to stage biannual events in China on contemporary art from Italy – events that are sure to become a fixture in the international art calendar.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **TITLE:** *Subtle Energies of Matter*

- **VENUES:** Shanghai, Urban Planning Exhibition Centre (100, People Avenue); Beijing, China National Academy of Painting (54, Xi San Huan Bei Road)

- **PERIOD:** Shanghai, January 16 – February 23, 2008; Beijing, March 7 – April 1, 2008

- **ARTISTS:** Roberto Almagno, Nicola Bolla, Gianni Caravaggio, Pietro Consagra, Caretto & Spagna, Filippo Centenari, Riccardo Cordero, Piero Fogliati, Christian Frosi, Marco Gastini, Francesco Gennari, Paolo Grassino, Isola & Norzi, Raffaele Luongo, Luigi Mainolfi, Eliseo Mattiacci, Fausto Melotti, Vittorio Messina, Nunzio, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Penone, Perino & Vele, Paolo Piscitelli, Viviana Ravaoli, Marco Nereo Rotelli, Sandro Sanna, Saverio Todaro, Luisa Valentini, Fabio Viale and Gilberto Zorio.

- **MAIN CURATOR:** Marisa Vescovo

- **EXECUTIVE CURATOR:** Alessandro Carrer

- **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Renato Barilli, Maurizio Calvesi, Pier Giovanni Castagnoli, Marco Meneguzzo and Marisa Vescovo

- **CONCEPT AND ORGANISATION:** The Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts, IGAV - Via Martiri della Libertà, 25 - 10131 Turin, Italy - tel. 0039 011 19781500 - [www.igav-art.org](http://www.igav-art.org).

- **IN COLLABORATION WITH:** **Il Sole 24 ORE**

- **WITH THE SUPPORT OF:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, Italian Institute of Culture of Shanghai and Piedmont Region

- **PATRONAGE:** Italian Ministry of Culture and Turin City Council.

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