



Istituto Garuzzo per le Arti Visive (IGAV)

Turin, July 10, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

SUBTLE ENERGIES OF MATTER

New horizons for IGAV's *Subtle Energies of Matter*

After touring China, the international exhibition of Italian contemporary sculpture, organised by the Turin-based Visual Arts Institute, reaches Korea

Seoul

Museum of Art Seoul National University

July 21 – September 5, 2008

Having now come to the end of its extensive tour of China – which started back in Shanghai in January, before visiting Beijing and then Shenzhen – *Subtle Energies of Matter* is heading for new horizons, once again in Asia. **This group show of Italian contemporary art, organised by IGAV (the Garuzzo Institute of the Visual Arts), will now be staged in Korea at Seoul National University's Museum of Art, from July 21 through September 5. The opening of the exhibition will take place on Monday, July 21 at 5pm, with a press conference in the same venue at 3pm.**

The exhibition has been 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 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**,



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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.

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 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”.*

Subtle Energies of Matter is the only showcase for contemporary art out of all the events being organised by the Italian Embassy in Korea and the Italian Institute of Culture in Seoul as part of the *Italy in Korea 2008* programme. As **Lucio Izzo**, President of the Italian Institute of Culture in Seoul, comments: *“The Italy in Korea project showcases those areas in which Italy excels, with a particular focus on culture, by which we mean the basis of our past and present civilisation in all of its innumerable expressions. This approach is very prescient in a country like Korea, which has made a giant leap over just a few years to become the world’s eleventh-largest industrial economy and is now an important economic and political partner for Italy – one that has great potential and, moreover, is becoming increasingly receptive to all things Italian”.*



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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); Seoul, Museum of Art Seoul National University (599 Gwanak-ro Gwanak-gu)
- **DURATION:** Shanghai, January 16 – February 23, 2008; Beijing, March 7 – April 1, 2008; Shenzhen, May 15 – June 25, 2008; Seoul, July 21 – September 5, 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 Ravaoli, 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 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:

Press Office: tel. +39 011 19781500