

RONCHINIGALLERY

Ronchini Gallery Expands with the Opening of a New London Gallery in Mayfair

Italian Beauty: works by Giulio Paolini, Domenico Bianchi and Giò Ponti

Since its inception in 1992 in Umbria, Italy, Ronchini Gallery has been dedicated to exploring pioneering movements at the forefront of Italian contemporary art practice whilst also representing international artists. Subscribing to the highest standards of curatorship and scholarship, the gallery provides a rigorous context in which its artists can be viewed. A second gallery space will open at 22 Dering Street, London, on 17 February 2012.

Director, Lorenzo Ronchini explains the move into Northern Europe, *'Ronchini Gallery has always been about progression. A gallery in London opens a lot of doors for us. People ask if opening a new space is a daunting prospect, but I would be more afraid to remain only in Italy.'*

The inaugural show, *Italian Beauty*, featuring works by leading Italian contemporary artists Giulio Paolini and Domenico Bianchi alongside Italian architect and design pioneer Giò Ponti, is presented in collaboration with Studio La Città and Curator Marco Meneguzzo. The exhibition is part of a series which demonstrate Ronchini's commitment to developing a broader understanding of Italian contemporary art in Northern Europe.

Italian Beauty is a curatorial project with the critical aim of investigating the idiosyncrasies of Italian art of the mid-20th and 21st centuries, by comparing artists from different generations joined by a common thread. The title *Italian Beauty* refers to the level of research and interest in the shape, completeness, and unity that characterised Italian art in the past.

This first show highlights a shared emphasis on the mode of creation and contrasts the artists' disparate techniques and concerns with art historical and classical influences. The works investigate the importance of production as an influence on the creative process. Bianchi's low level intervention, abstract work with wax, and Paolini's studies into the act of exhibiting are contextualised by Ponti's statement when he was awarded the Grand Prix at the Paris Expo 1925, *'industry is the style of the 20th century, its mode of creation.'*

Domenico Bianchi

Using melting wax as his primary medium, Domenico Bianchi avoids imposing a predictable physical outcome and reveals an aesthetic inherent in natural processes and materials. Bianchi emerged in the 1980's building upon the foundations laid by Spacialism and the subsequent Arte Povera movement, which removed distinctions between techniques, cut dependence on the past and focussed attention on essential materials such as wood, water and stone.

Giulio Paolini

Often linked to the Arte Povera movement due to his involvement with influential artists and the early shows of the movement, Giulio Paolini subscribes to a different dogma, drawing heavily on art history and a twenty year archive of memories captured in photography, collage and plaster casts. With an open, cyclical approach Paolini creates works that investigate the purpose of art and how the viewer interacts with it. Here, the act of exhibition is seen by Paolini as fundamental to the experience.

Giò Ponti

Giò Ponti was an Italian Architect, industrial designer, craftsman, poet, painter, publisher and polymath who from the 1920's to the late 70's had a profound effect on the history of design and architecture in Italy and subsequently the world. He founded Domus magazine and designed many landmark buildings including the Pirelli Tower, Milan. Through his ceramic and furniture designs he defined a role model for industrial design excellence that proved that decorative sensibilities were

RONCHINIGALLERY

not incompatible with modern ideals of quality mass production, and played an important role in the perception of Italy as a world leader in contemporary design.

Three very different artists are connected by one aim, to make works in the self-sufficient language of art that does not rely on the subject to provide value.

Notes to Editors

About Ronchini Gallery

Ronchini Gallery was founded in Umbria, Italy in 1992, expanding into Northern Europe with a gallery opening in Mayfair, London, February 2012.

Ronchini Gallery also incorporates a successful publishing arm which produces artist monographs and critical texts by respected art critics including; Achille Bonito Oliva, Luca Beatrice, Arturo Schwarz, Bruno Corà, Marco Giacomelli, Kenneth Baker, Alberto Fiz and Lòrànd Hegyi.

Ronchini Gallery has evolved from a family passion for collecting. Paterfamilias Adriano Ronchini was an early supporter of Arte Povera and Minimal Conceptualist artists in the Seventies; collecting works by Luciano Fabro, Alighiero Boetti, Daniel Buren, Joseph Kosuth, Frank Stella and Michelangelo Pistoletto.

Collecting has remained a private passion for Lorenzo Ronchini, who learnt alongside his father from a young age. With his father's encouragement, Lorenzo opened the first Ronchini Gallery in 1992 building upon foundations laid through twenty years of private collecting. With a principal focus on Italian art from La Nuova Scuola Romana (The New School of Rome) and the leading exponents of Viennese Actionism, to this day Lorenzo Ronchini retains an unblinking future-focus on progressive movements.

About the artists

Domenico Bianchi (b. 1955)

Bianchi lives and works in Rome. Solo exhibitions have included Slewe Gallery, Amsterdam (2009); MACRO: Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma (2008); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1994); "OPERA ITALIANA: sala espositiva", 45th Venice Biennale (1993). Group shows have included Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugano (2011); Venice Biennale (2011, 1986, 1984); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, (2004); P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York (1999).

Giulio Paolini (b. 1940)

Paolini lives and works in Turin. Solo exhibitions have included Accademia di Belle Arti Giacomo Carrara, Bergamo, Italy (2005); Fondazione Prada, Milan (2003); Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Paris (2002); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1980) and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1974). Group Exhibitions include Mamco - musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Geneva (2009); Biennale of Sydney (2008); Tate Modern, London (2000); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1984) and Venice Biennale (1978).

Giò Ponti (1891 – 1979)

Giò Ponti lived and worked in Milan. Greatest architectural and design achievements include the Denver Art Museum (1972); interior design of Hotel Parco dei Principi, Rome (1964); Alitalia Offices, New York (1958); 'Superleggera' chair for Cassina (1957) and Pirelli Tower, Milan (1956). Ponti was also heavily involved in ADI - Associazione per il Disegno Industriale, Italy (Association of Industrial Design) and in the organisation of Triennale Exhibition, Monza and Milan (1933). Awards include 'Grand Prix' at the Paris expo for his artistic directorship of Richard-Ginori, the ceramics manufacturer (1925); Art Prize of the Accademia d'Italia; an Honorary Doctorate, Royal College of Art, London; a Gold Medal from the Académie d'Architecture in Paris and he was awarded Commander of the Royal Vasa Order in Stockholm all in 1934. Ponti was also professor at the Faculty of Architecture at the Milan Polytechnic (1936 - 1961).

Exhibition Dates: 17 February – 5 April 2012

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am-6pm

For press information and images please contact: Sophie da Gama Campos or Toby Kidd at JB Pelham PR

Tel: +44 (0) 208 969 3959 **Email:** sophie@jbpelhampr.com or toby@jbpelhampr.com