

Paolo Scheggi:  
Selected Works from European Collections  
11 December 2013 – 8 February 2014



Left: Paolo Scheggi, *Essere*, (PS 0060). 1963, acrylic on overlapping canvas, 90 x 65 x 5.5 cm, Private Collection. Courtesy Galleria d'Arte Niccoli. Right: Paolo Scheggi in his studio, Milan, 1966. Photo: Ugo Mulas © Ugo Mulas Heirs. All rights reserved. Courtesy Archivio Ugo Mulas – Galleria Lia Rumma

Ronchini Gallery and Galleria d'Arte Niccoli are proud to present **Paolo Scheggi: Selected Works from European Collections**, the first solo exhibition of works by Paolo Scheggi in London for over 40 years. Running from 11 December 2013 – 8 February 2014, this monumental exhibition will present key works from Scheggi's short, but prolific artistic career.

Paolo Scheggi (1940-1971) is most renowned for his monochromatic works of overlapping canvases, which he referred to as *Intersuperfici* or *Zone Riflesse* (curved intersurfaces and reflected areas). Scheggi's volumetric works are most notable for pioneering the idea of 'painting as object', as noted by Gillo Dorfles in his essay "Pittura-oggetto a Milano"<sup>1</sup>, a concept he codified in 1966 in the exhibition of the same title, which was held at the Galleria Arco D'Alibert, Rome. This exhibition featured work by Scheggi alongside the artists: Lucio Fontana, Agostino Bonalumi and Enrico Castellani; and a catalogue that includes essays by Gillo Dorfles and Germano Celant.

Germano Celant followed and admired Scheggi's works, and says of this group of artists:

Their attention on elementary entities such as: the line, the point, simple geometric figures, rhythm, and the monochromatic surface in order to show that it is precisely the component parts of our perceptual apparatus that constitute the specific objective of their operation as tools of our 'technique' of intervention in the formation of behaviours.<sup>2</sup>

Between sculpture and painting, Scheggi's three-dimensional works represent the physicality of the canvas in a poetic manner. Both transcendental and existential, with their

<sup>1</sup> Forin, Elena (ed.), *Elementi Spaziali*, Milan: Silvana Editoriale, 2011, pp. 62 – 63.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, p. 12.

concave and deeply shadowed layers of canvas, his works are both captivating to look at and conceptual.

Scheggi's layered canvases are firmly rooted in art history, and have seen a massive resurgence of interest in recent years. Often seen as a successor to Lucio Fontana's specialist observations; where Fontana asks the viewer to look beyond the canvas, Scheggi's works take this idea further as they occupy the space of the viewer, making the viewer look within.

His work is often discussed in the context of the Zero Movement, and compared to artists such as Piero Manzoni for his explorations with existentialism and the space-time continuum. Contemporary artists continue to explore themes which Scheggi pioneered such as, Anish Kapoor, and his investigation into the void.

In 2013, Centro per L'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, held a solo exhibition of works by Scheggi, which included a pivotal installation titled *Intercamera Plastica e Altre Storie*; a large scale work, originally displayed in 2007 at Galleria d'Arte Niccoli for the MIART (Milan).

Ronchini Gallery's exhibition will present an exceptional collection of works exploring Scheggi's fundamental motifs; a rare opportunity to view some of this artist's most iconic pieces.

In January 2014, a fully illustrated catalogue will be published to accompany the exhibition.

### **About the artist**

Paolo Scheggi was born in Settignano, Italy in 1940 and attended the School of Art and the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence. Scheggi moved to Milan in 1961, and his first solo exhibition was held at the gallery Vigna Nuova in Florence when he was only 21 years old. He participated in many international solo and group exhibitions during his life including: The XXXIII Venice Biennale (1966); Galleria Arco D'Alibert, Rome (1966); and the Paris Biennale (1967). He died in 1971 at the young age of 31 from heart disease. Posthumous exhibitions include: Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bologna (1976) (solo); Galleria d'Arte Niccoli, Parma (2002, 2007 and 2010) (solo); The XXXVI Venice Biennale (1972); *Postwar. Protagonisti Italiani*, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, (2013); *Intercamera Plastica e Altre Storie*, Centro per L'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, (2013) (solo), Sothebys, Milan (2013).

### **About Ronchini Gallery**

Ronchini Gallery is a contemporary art gallery founded by Lorenzo Ronchini in 1992 in Umbria, Italy, which relocated to Mayfair, London in February 2012. The gallery aesthetic is defined by Minimalism, Spatialism, Conceptualism and Arte Povera and it retains an unblinking future-focus on progressive movements whilst remembering the past. Its exhibitions have explored pioneering movements across a broad spectrum of contemporary artistic practice. Working with acclaimed curators and scholars from across the world, the gallery provides a rigorous context in which its artists can be viewed. The gallery has recently begun working with an international group of younger artists including Adrien Broom, Jacob Hashimoto, Adeline de Monseignat, Berndnaut Smilde and Rebecca Ward. It is also actively involved in the secondary market and has become known for presenting critically acclaimed curated exhibitions that explore the work of modern and contemporary artists who are part of the gallery's history. These artists include Alexander Calder, Mario Schifano, Alighero Boetti, Michelangelo Pistoletto and Enrico Castellani. In 2012, Ronchini

Gallery announced its exclusive representation of the Conrad Marca-Relli Archive and mounted the renowned American Abstract Expressionist's first UK solo exhibition curated by David Anfam and Kenneth Baker. It aims to discover and rediscover exceptional artists and through its secondary market programme Ronchini Gallery's objective is to inspire the next generation of young artists. Paterfamilias Adriano Ronchini was an early supporter of artists such as Alighiero Boetti, Daniel Buren, Joseph Kosuth, Frank Stella and Michelangelo Pistoletto and collected their work throughout the seventies; Ronchini Gallery evolved from these years of private collecting. The gallery maintains a successful publishing arm, which produces exhibition catalogues, monographs, critical texts and artist's books.

### **About Galleria d'Arte Niccoli**

Galleria d'Arte Niccoli was founded in 1968 in Parma, Italy, and for the past 40 years has been one of the most important Italian artistic and cultural institutions. Founded by Giuseppe Niccoli, the tradition is now continued by his sons, Marco and Roberto. The gallery represents the archives of Conrad Marca-Relli and Paolo Scheggi, and exhibits artists including: Arman, Jean Arp, Giacomo Balla, Alberto Burri, Giorgio De Chirico, Otto Dix, Piero Dorazio, Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein, Henry Moore, Giorgio Morandi, Francis Picabia, Man Ray, Mimmo Rotella, Mario Schifano, Salvatore Scarpitta, and Graham Sutherland.

**Exhibition Facts:** Paolo Scheggi: Selected Works from European Collections

**Exhibition Dates:** 11 December 2013 – 8 February 2014

**Opening Reception:** 10 December 2013, 6 - 8pm

**Opening Hours:** Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

**Location:** 22 Dering Street, London, W1S 1AN

**Tel:** +44 (0)20 7629 9188

**Website:** [www.ronchinigallery.com](http://www.ronchinigallery.com)

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