

# ROBILANT+VOENA

## LUCIO FONTANA

6 - 27 May 2016

Monday to Saturday – 10.00 to 18.00

24<sup>th</sup> East 80<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10075

ROBILANT+VOENA are very pleased to present a solo exhibition of works by the celebrated Italian artist Lucio Fontana (1899-1968), on view at 24<sup>th</sup> East 80<sup>th</sup> Street New York, NY 10075 from 6 to 27 May 2016. The exhibition will focus on Fontana's later career, and will present a curated selection of works from the late 1950s through to 1968, the year the artist passed away.

It is often asserted that Fontana's work can be easily identified with a single artistic gesture – his signature slashes, but in fact his legacy is extremely versatile both in its forms and concepts. Over the course of a very prolific career, Fontana produced an incredible number of works spanning multiple mediums and techniques, ranging from painted canvases and works on paper to works on metal and ceramics.

The body of work displayed in this exhibition will exemplify some of the different phases of Fontana's career. The show will bring together a *Concetto spaziale* from 1957 belonging to the *Inchiostri (Ink)* series. This series was realised between 1956 and 1959 and is characterised by the use of organic ink – the so called 'aniline', and made by perforating the canvas with a conspicuous number of small dots, and the use of multiple layers of canvas and a palette of soft tones.

*Concetto Spaziale* (1960) and *Concetto spaziale. Attesa* (1961) belong to the *Buchi* ('holes') cycle. The gesture of piercing the surface of the painting introduced by Fontana in the work of this period is that of scarring and destroying, as well as trespassing the traditional flat surface and breaking into another, entirely unknown dimension.

Subsequently, Fontana began making systematic cuts, which would become the most emblematic symbol of the artist's practice and the encapsulation of his *Spatialist* theories. The 1960s were a decade of great productivity in which the artist further developed the conceptual gesture of holes and cuts, translating the latter into new formats and materials. Belonging to the beginning of this period is a white painting with one slash from 1960, while a yellow work with one slash and a blue one with four slashes were executed in 1967. The technical perfection that the artist achieved at this late stage of his career enabled him to successfully create these beautifully balanced and rhythmical compositions which culminated with a stunning white *Attesa* with three slashes executed in the last months of the artist's life.

In addition to these seminal works, the show will include a rare, beautiful black painting, executed in 1961, which exemplifies an extraordinary compositional elegance and Fontana's experimental and innovative genius.

**Lucio Fontana** (Rosario de Santa Fé 1899 - Varese 1968). His work is held in museums worldwide, including: Museum of Modern Art, New York; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; Calderara Foundation Collection, Milan, Italy; Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin, Italy; Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome, Italy; GAM - Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin, Italy; Tate Gallery, London, United Kingdom.

For all further information please contact the gallery at [art@robilantvoena.com](mailto:art@robilantvoena.com)

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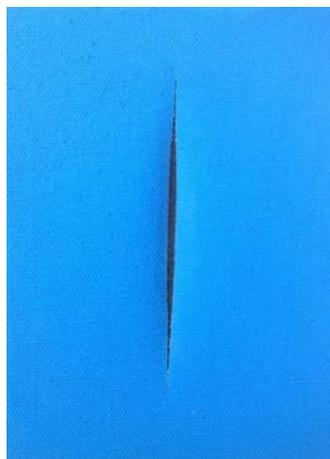
PRESS RELEASE

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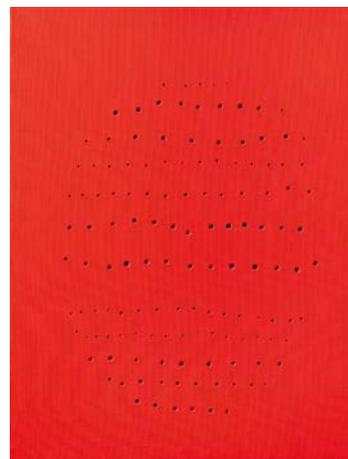
## SELECTION OF IMAGES



**LUCIO FONTANA**  
*Concetto Spaziale. Attesa,*  
1967  
Water-based paint on canvas  
93 x 73 cm / 36.6 x 28.7 in



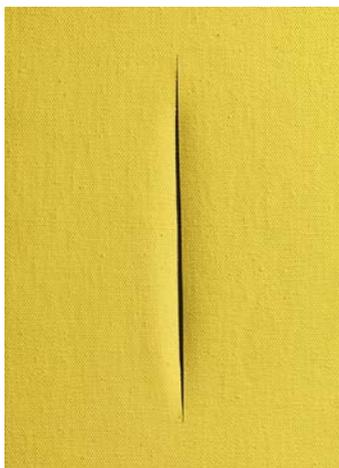
**LUCIO FONTANA**  
*Concetto Spaziale, Attesa,*  
1964  
Water-based paint on canvas  
22 x 16 cm / 8.7 x 6.3 in



**LUCIO FONTANA**  
*Concetto spaziale,*  
1960  
Water-based paint on canvas  
61 x 46 cm / 24 x 18.1 in



**LUCIO FONTANA**  
*Concetto Spaziale, Attesa,*  
1960  
Water-based paint on canvas  
81 x 65 cm / 31.8 x 25.5 in



**LUCIO FONTANA**  
*Concetto Spaziale,*  
1967  
Water-based paint on canvas  
33 x 24 cm / 13 x 9.5 in



**LUCIO FONTANA**  
*Concetto spaziale, Attesa,*  
1967  
Waterpaint on canvas  
80 x 65 cm / 31.5 x 25.6 in