

# ROBILANT+VOENA

## ROBILANT+VOENA at Art Basel Miami Beach 2016

**Robilant+Voena** are pleased to take part in Art Basel Miami Beach where they will be presenting a curated selection of works by Mimmo Rotella which will focus on three distinct and fundamental techniques the artist pioneered between the 1950s and the 1990s.

One of the most influential Italian artists of his generation, **Mimmo Rotella** came of age in Rome during the post-war period and quickly established his place within a cultural movement recognised internationally due to the presence in the city of artists such as Alberto Burri, Ettore Colla, Carla Accardi and Cy Twombly. He invented the *décollage* technique in 1953, and remained one of the key artists working within this practice for the rest of his life. He appropriated cinema and advertising posters from city walls and mined them for meaning by tearing, scarring and excavating their layers. On display will be a selection of works realised with this technique that attest how this revolutionary gesture of tearing carried out a need for a more direct contact with life and reality. At the start of the 1960s Rotella began working with other innovative techniques such as his *photographic reproduction* for which an image is projected on a canvas treated with photographic emulsion. On display are some of the most important works realised with this technique such as *Secret Violence* (1963) and *Ice cream* (1963).

Rotella's dynamic experimentation with material and process continued throughout the 1980s and 1990s with his *sovrappittura*, executed variously on canvas or zinc sheets, by applying acrylic paint on to the *décollages*. In these works the zinc assumes a significant role beyond that of merely a supporting structure, and becomes instead an integral feature of the work itself.

This presentation follows on from two extensive exhibitions: *Mimmo Rotella*, held in February 2015 at Robilant+Voena in London and *The Maverick Mimmo Rotella*, held in September 2016 at the Milan gallery.

ROBILANT+VOENA deal in fine art from the fifteenth century to the twenty first, encompassing Old Masters and nineteenth century painting, classic modern, Italian post-war and contemporary art. Reflecting this breadth of specialism, critically acclaimed exhibitions at the gallery have included shows on Antonio Joli and Gaspar van Wittel; as well as surveys of Italian artists such as Lucio Fontana, Paolo Scheggi, Agostino Bonalumi and Gianni Colombo.

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