

# ROBILANT+VOENA

Exhibition  
Italian Post-war Sculpture: between figuration and abstraction

Curated by Francesca Pola

Robilant + Voena  
4 October to 17 November, 2017  
Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm

38 Dover Street  
London W1S 4NL

Italian post-war sculpture was dynamic, experimental, and original. This exhibition presents works created during the pivotal moment after the war when Italian sculptors rejected the past and redefined the meaning, purpose and manifestation of their art. Sculptors represented include Andrea Cascella, Pietro Consagra, Lucio Fontana, Marino Marini, Umberto Mastroianni, Fausto Melotti, Eduardo Paolozzi, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Francesco Somaini, and Alberto Viani. As sculptors built new and extraordinary forms, concurrently, their country built a new and buoyant Italy.

The filmmaker, Federico Fellini wrote of postwar Italy:

*"I am happy to be living at a time when everything is capsizing. It's a marvellous time, for the very reason that a whole series of ideologies, concepts and conventions is being wrecked".*

In this moment of destruction, sculpture became an emblem of "reconstruction". Amidst the wreckage, sculptors followed new experimental paths of development, including abstraction, figuration, and new materiality. The sculptures on view in the exhibition demonstrate the antagonism and dialogue between the classic and the modern; figuration and abstraction; traditional media and radical experimentation. Through these active tensions, Italian postwar sculpture gave birth to a new visual language, which was cemented and encouraged by the wealth and inventive vitality of a burgeoning Italy. With creation and the modern maintaining a key central role in society, the result was one of the most fruitful moments in the history of contemporary art.

For further information please contact the gallery at [art@robilantvoena.com](mailto:art@robilantvoena.com) or at +44 (0) 207 4091540.

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Pietro Consagra (1920-2005), *Porfido antico*, 1991, 65 x 52.5 x 20 cm / 25.5 x 20.7 x 7.9 in.



Alberto Viani (1906-1989), *Torso femminile*, 1945, 98 x 50 x 50 cm / 38.5 x 19.6 x 19.6 in.



Fausto Melotti, (1901-1986), *Due Curve*, 1973-74, stainless steel, 132 x 66 x 63 cm / 51.9 x 25.9 x 24.8 in.



Marino Marini (1901-1980), *Cavallo*, 1943, Polychrome plaster, Height 88 cm / 34.6 in.



PRESS RELEASE

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