

# ROBILANT + VOENA

## LUCIO FONTANA

4 December 2015 – 10 January 2016

Tuesday to Sunday – 2 pm to 7pm

Via Serlas 35, CH-75000, St Moritz

**ROBILANT+VOENA** are very pleased to present a solo exhibition of works by the celebrated Italian artist Lucio Fontana (1899-1968), on view at our St. Moritz gallery from 4 December 2015 to 10 January 2016. The exhibition will focus on Fontana's later career, and will present a curated selection of works from the early 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 an early work on paper, *Concetto spaziale* (1951) as well as 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. In 1958, for the first time, Fontana applied a series of cuts (*Tagli*) on paper and as a fine example of this iconic series, the exhibition will include a rare and ground-breaking work from 1959.

*Concetto Spaziale* (1960) and *Concetto spaziale. Attesa* (1960) 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 *Attese* with three slashes executed in the last months of the artist's life.

In addition to these seminal works, the show will include a beautiful black and white ceramic executed between 1960 and 1963 and a work that Fontana realised in 1965 in collaboration with Egidio Costantini which combines large blue Murano glass balls executed by Costantini with a silver shining surface. Both works further exemplify Fontana's multifaceted and diverse output and his 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.

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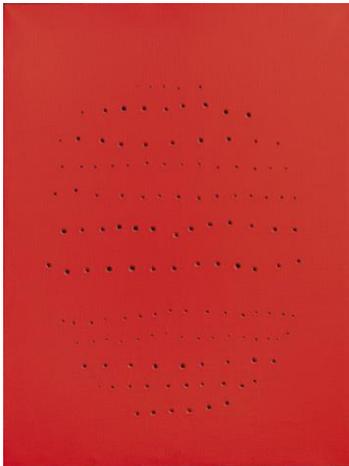
## SELECTION OF IMAGES



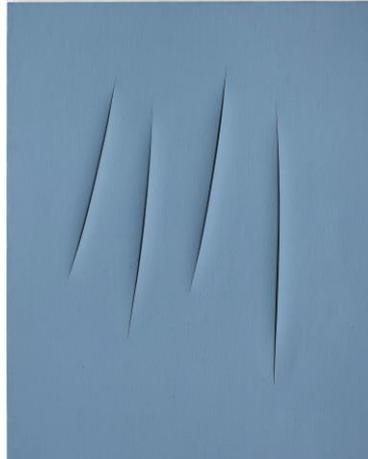
LUCIO FONTANA  
*Concetto Spaziale*, 1951  
Mixed media on paper  
45.7 x 48.3 cm / 17.9 x 19 in



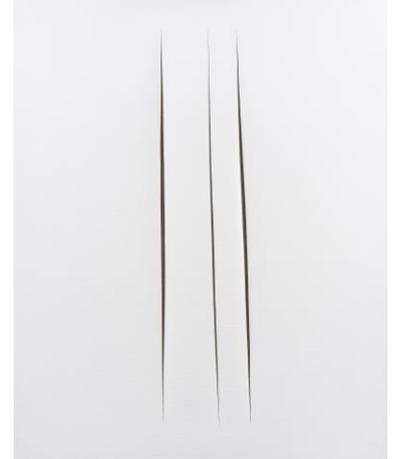
LUCIO FONTANA  
*Concetto Spaziale, Attese*, 1959  
Aniline and crayon on canvas  
73 x 92 cm / 28.7 x 36.2 in



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



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



LUCIO FONTANA  
*Concetto spaziale, Attese*, 1968  
Water-based paint on canvas  
100 x 81 cm / 39.3 x 31 in



LUCIO FONTANA  
*Concetto spaziale*, 1960-63  
Painted ceramic, diam. 48,3 cm/19 in

LUCIO FONTANA - EGIDIO COSTANTINI  
*Concetto Spaziale*, 1965  
Metal sheet with perforations and 17  
Murano glass balls  
100 x 82 x 9.5 cm / 39.4 x 32.3 x 3.7 in



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