

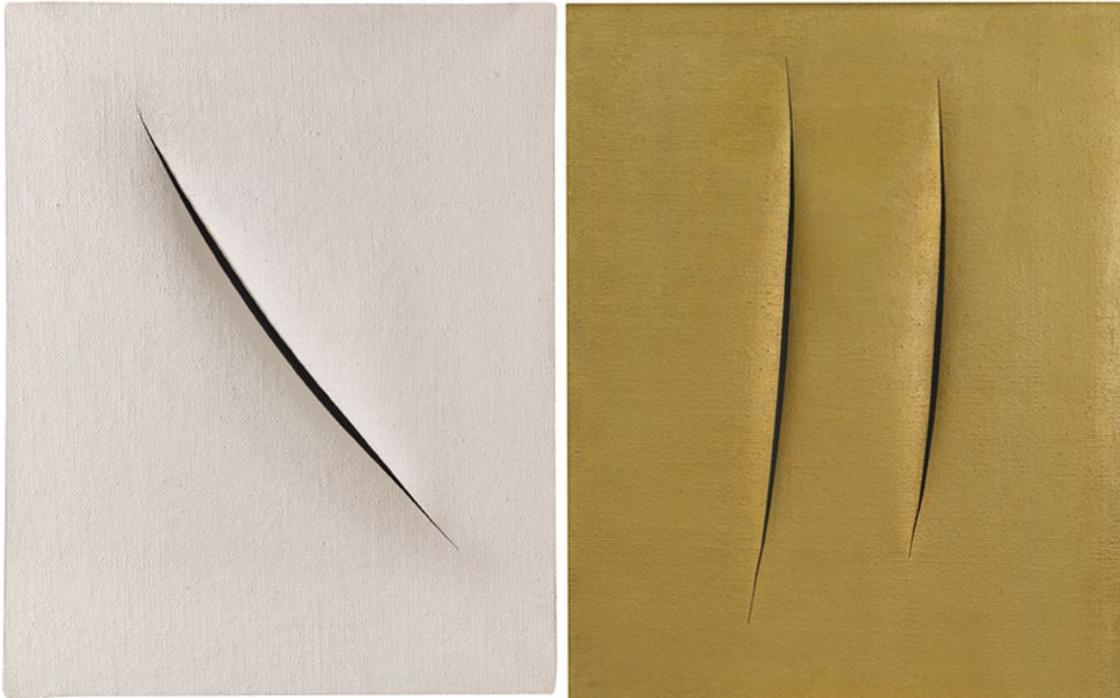
WIDEWALLS

THE TECHNICAL PERFECTION OF LUCIO FONTANA IN EXHIBITION AT ROBILANT + VOENA

Art Exhibitions • Angie Kordic



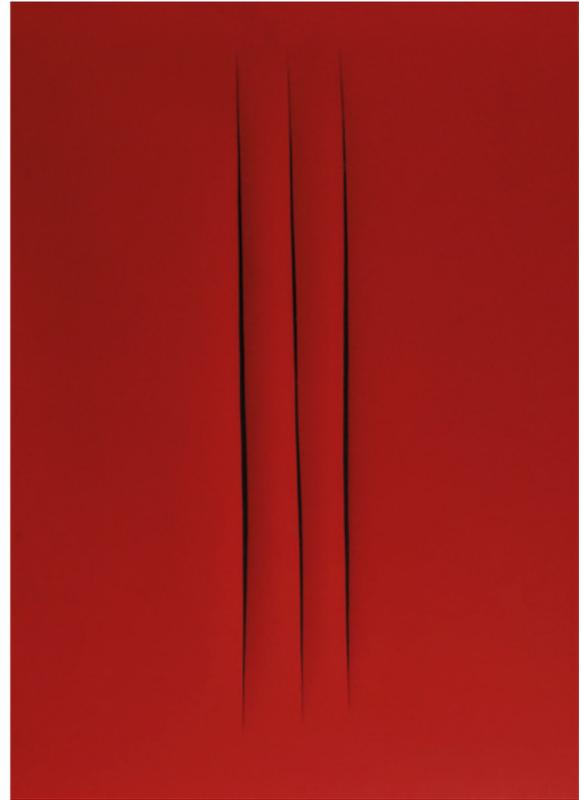
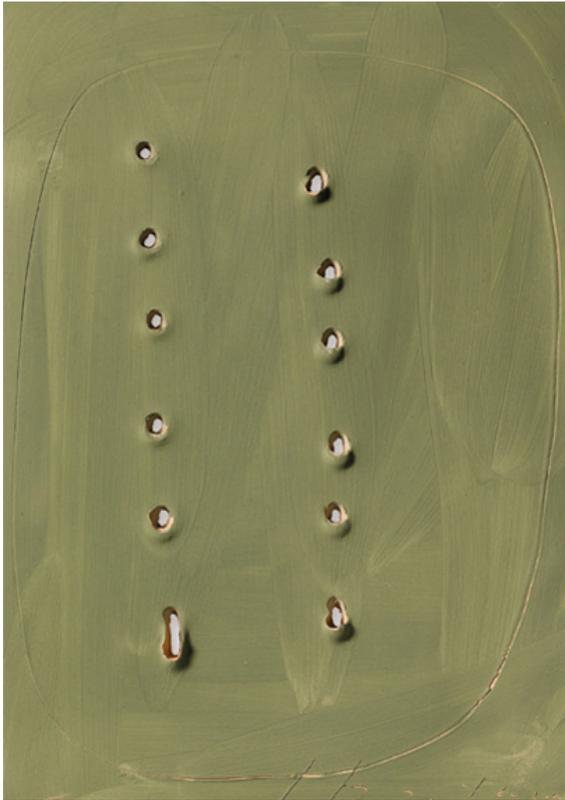
To fully experience the works as groundbreaking as these, one must simply visit a Lucio Fontana exhibition and see his spatial concepts in person, because nothing else will ever do them justice. Yes, it is first and foremost his **“slash” paintings**, whose energy can actually be felt once you’re in their presence; monochromatic canvases, cut through in order to be given a new life, eliciting hectic movement as much as an extraordinary sense of calmness. But surely it is not just about these works that we will remember Lucio Fontana by, but also his works on paper, metal and ceramics. A curated selection of his late works will soon be **on view at Robilant + Voena**, for yet another homage to an important figure in the history of art.



Left: Lucio Fontana – *Concetto Spaziale, Attesa*, 1960. Water-based paint on canvas, 81 x 65 cm
Right: Lucio Fontana – *Concetto Spaziale, Attese*, 1963-64. Water-based paint on canvas, 41 x 33 cm

Beyond the Surface

It was all about the concept of space for Lucio Fontana, one that can be found beyond the surface of a given canvas or a visionary idea in painting. His slashes and holes became a frequent sight in his work, dividing his oeuvre into *Buchi* (Holes) and *Tagli* (Slashes). The artist used to paint the canvas behind his cuts, thus giving a sense of depth and leading many to argue that this particular layer was the one holding most significance in his painting, rather than the one put at the front of the frame of his artworks. Lucio Fontana's long, fruitful career left a vast legacy filled with pieces of many mediums and techniques and produced during his many phases of a variety of focus. Among them, on view at Robilant + Voena, there will be a *Concetto Spaziale* from the *Inchiostri* (Ink) series, an artwork created with organic ink and perforated with a conspicuous number of small dots.



Left: Lucio Fontana – Concetto Spaziale, 1960-65. Graffito and painted terracotta 42 x 29.5 cm, 16.5 x 11.6 in / **Right:** Lucio Fontana – Concetto Spaziale, Attese, 1967. Waterpaint on canvas, 93.2x73.5cm, 36.7x28.9in

Concetto Spaziale

The 1960s was an exciting decade for Lucio Fontana, for then he became making systematic cuts and giving the most important contributions to his own Spatialist theory. His scars and interventions became frequent, numerous and confident, further confirming the artist's intention to delve into a different dimension of painting. Some of the finest examples of this period are the white and a yellow canvas with a single cut each, or the blue one with four cuts, demonstrating Lucio Fontana's achieved perfection in technique and exalting his dedication to the spatial concept. Both balanced and rhythmical, these works remained his main preoccupation until the very end of his life, with the stunning white *Attese* being one of his last produced artworks. Also on display, there will be a rare black painting, created in 1961.