



Istituto Garuzzo per le Arti Visive (IGAV)

PRESS RELEASE

“SUBTLE ENERGIES OF MATTER”

**A high-profile Italian contemporary sculpture exhibition
spanning several artists generations set to be held in China**

Shanghai
Urban Planning Exhibition Center
January 16 - February 23, 2008

Beijing
China National Academy of Painting
March 7 - April 1, 2008

Contemporary sculpture encapsulated in moulded forms that are brought to life by the **Subtle Energies of Matter**: the Turin-based **Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts – IGAV** for short – continues its far-sighted approach by organising a second initiative in China, a new exhibition of Italian artists.

Sculptures by thirty-one artists will be on show in this touring exhibition, which – in early 2008 – will visit China’s most important cities. It is set to be staged at the Urban Planning Exhibition Center in Shanghai from January 16 to February 23, 2008, before moving on to the China National Academy of Painting in Beijing from March 7 to April 1, 2008.

The objective of the initiative is to highlight the extent to which the techniques and poetics of sculpture have been transformed since the dawn of the avant-garde and how sculptors have developed a tendency to play with the lightness of a multiplicity of materials, which – while classically ‘heavy’ – also have the capacity to lose their substantiality and to be suspended in space. The exhibition features some of the acknowledged masters who have paved the way towards a new take on the plastic arts: **Roberto Almagno, Pietro Consagra, Riccardo Cordero, Piero Fogliati, Marco Gastini, Luigi Mainolfi, Gino Marotta, Eliseo Mattiacci, Fausto Melotti, Vittorio Messina, Nunzio, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Penone, Sandro Sanna and Gilberto Zorio**. Alongside them, there is a group of emerging artists who have recently taken this poetics to extremes: **Nicola Bolla, Gianni Caravaggio, Caretto & Spagna, Filippin Centenari, Christian Frosi, Francesco Gennari, Paolo Grassino, Isola & Norzi, Roberto Luongo, Marco Nereo Rotelli, Paolo Piscitelli, Perino & Vele, Viviana Ravaioli, Saverio Todaro, Luisa Valentini and Fabio Viale**.

The exhibition will see each artist present one or two finished pieces, accompanied by early versions, models and photographs, in order to give visitors a more comprehensive vision of what goes into the creation of a sculpture, and how the artistic process gives form to the poetics of each artist.

Orchestrated in cooperation with the financial newspaper Il Sole 24 ORE, through the sponsorship of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Institute of Culture of Shanghai, the Piedmont Region and under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture and Turin City Council, Subtle Energies of Matter signals a return to the Orient just a little over a year since the successful staging of Nature and Metamorphosis, the exhibition held in Shanghai



and Beijing – to a rapturous reception from both public and critics alike – as part of the Italy in China: 2006 initiative, a year-long programme of events organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As curator **Marisa Vescovo** explains: “We have witnessed how the term ‘sculpture’, in the present day, is no longer able to encompass all of the modes of production adopted by today’s artists: creating channels for other materials, constructing forms that can react to the movement of real and artificial light, enlarging environmental and imaginary spaces by including icons and sounds emitted by the mass media. The heterogeneous nature of three-dimensional works of art produced in the 20th and 21st centuries touches on areas of great poignancy. We find not only mixed media, but also hybrid genres that use different languages, like rocket-fuelled escapes from all pre-defined patterns. We are subject to social and existential influences that throw together art, daily life and culture into an ongoing mélange that knows no end.

Rosalba Garuzzo, Chairman of IGAV – the non-profit body launched in 2005 with her husband, Giorgio Garuzzo, in an effort to provide support to the recent generations of Italian artists spotlighting their work on the international art scene – comments: “In line with the mission that we decided to set for our foundation, based on our experiences and on the expertise we acquired as collectors and art lovers, this initiative, like its predecessors before it, is geared towards sensitising the public about the contemporary art being produced in Italy; in particular, Subtle Energies of Matter is an attempt to remind the world how Italy, with its plethora of natural resources and wealth of technical and industrial skill, has served, over many centuries, as a frame of reference for artists from every corner of the globe. From Michelangelo to Henry Moore.”

The mutually beneficial relationships consolidated with China will help to ensure that IGAV’s second Oriental initiative becomes a fixture in the calendar by laying the groundwork for the biannual staging of an event to showcase contemporary art from Italy.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **TITLE:** *Subtle Energies of Matter*

- **VENUES:** Shanghai, Urban Planning Exhibition Centre (100, People Avenue); Beijing, China National Academy of Painting (54, Xi San Huan Bei Road)

- **PERIOD:** Shanghai, January 16 – February 23, 2008; Beijing, March 7 – April 1, 2008

- **ARTISTS:** Roberto Almagno, Nicola Bolla, Gianni Caravaggio, Pietro Consagra, Caretto & Spagna, Filippo Centenari, Riccardo Cordero, Piero Fogliati, Christian Frosi, Marco Gastini, Francesco Gennari, Paolo Grassino, Isola & Norzi, Raffaele Luongo, Luigi Mainolfi, Eliseo Mattiacci, Fausto Melotti, Vittorio Messina, Nunzio, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Penone, Perino & Vele, Paolo Piscitelli, Viviana Ravaioli, Marco Nereo Rotelli, Sandro Sanna, Saverio Todaro, Luisa Valentini, Fabio Viale and Gilberto Zorio.

- **MAIN CURATOR:** Marisa Vescovo

- **EXECUTIVE CURATOR:** Alessandro Carrer

- **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Renato Barilli, Maurizio Calvesi, Pier Giovanni Castagnoli, Marco Meneguzzo and Marisa Vescovo

- **CONCEPT AND ORGANISATION:** The Garuzzo Institute for the Visual Arts, IGAV - Via Martiri della Libertà, 25 - 10131 Turin, Italy - tel. 0039 011 19781500 - www.igav-art.org.

- **IN COLLABORATION WITH:** **Il Sole 24 ORE**

- **WITH THE SUPPORT OF:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, Italian Institute of Culture of Shanghai and Piedmont Region

- **PATRONAGE:** Italian Ministry of Culture and Turin City Council.

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For more information:

Press Office: tel. 0039 338 7819844, cricav@gmail.com