

# CASOLI • DE LUCA

## Casoli De Luca Presents Exhibition Exploring the Allure and Meaning of Gold in Italian Art Through Works by More Than 20 Artists from the 14th to 21st Centuries

On view through November 23 in an intimate townhouse setting, *ORO D'ITALIA* includes works by Giacomo Balla, Lucio Fontana, Michelangelo Pistoletto, and Rudolph Stingel, among others

Exhibition marks first US presentation by Rome-based gallery  
founded by Sergio Casoli and Mattia De Luca

**NEW YORK, October 24, 2019**—An exhibition examining the enduring role and power of gold in Italian art, featuring the work of more than 20 artists ranging from the 14th to the 21st centuries, *ORO d'ITALIA* is presented by Casoli De Luca at 8 East 63rd Street in New York. On view now through November 23, 2019, the exhibition explores why gold has been such a compelling medium for artists through time, because of its malleability, reflectivity, and color, as well as its inherent value and symbolic meaning. The works range in time and content from Renaissance gold-ground panel religious paintings to satirical uses in contemporary art, and with a special focus on the seemingly oxymoronic use of gold by Arte Povera artists.

"We wanted to trace a narrative of Italian artistic identity through gold because of its timeless allure to artists and audiences," stated gallery co-founder Sergio Casoli. "Sometimes sacred and sometimes irreverent, serving as a celestial background or a decadent highlight, gold is always beautiful and always arresting. It is no wonder that this material is so pervasive throughout the history of Italian art."

*ORO d'ITALIA*, presented in collaboration with Studio Geuna, includes paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and mixed media works utilizing this precious metal. The show begins with a few works by Florentine masters of the 14th century and continues to Futurists, like Giacomo Balla. The core of the exhibition is a rich overview of post-war Italian art, with works by Carla Accardi, Alberto Burri, Luciano Fabro, Lucio Fontana, Fausto Melotti, Giuseppe Penone, and Michelangelo Pistoletto.

"We are particularly intrigued with the use of gold in post-war art, especially Arte Povera, which marked a seismic shift in Italian art," stated gallery co-founder Mattia De Luca. "Tracing the artistic alchemy of gold from the earliest works, in which it conjures up sacred space, to its recombinant use by contemporary artists, reveals that its role in art is as malleable as the element itself."

### Artists

*List as of 9/27/2019*

Carla Accardi  
Giacomo Balla  
Agostino Bonalumi  
Alberto Burri  
Enrico Castellani  
Roberto Crippa  
Gino De Dominicis  
Salvatore Falci  
Lara Favaretto

Luciano Fabro  
Lucio Fontana  
Janni Kounellis  
Piero Manzoni  
Fausto Melotti  
Luigi Ontani  
Giulio Paolini  
Giuseppe Penone  
Michelangelo Pistoletto

Giovanni Rizzoli  
Remo Salvadori  
Rudolf Stingel  
Paul Thorel

Tommaso Spazzini Villa  
Adolfo Wildt  
A selection of Florentine Renaissance Masters

Installed in an intimately scaled 1878 townhouse, the exhibition includes seminal works drawn from private collections and loans from museums. Highlights include:

- Giacomo Balla's *Forma Rumore* (1913-14) is one of the artist's only works transposed on gold paper and one of the first examples of Futurist experimentation in which sounds are rendered visually. It encapsulates Balla's interest in observing urban reality and motion.
- Lucio Fontana's *Concetto Spaziale* (1960-61) is a rare example of high experimentation in his work. The famous cut at the center of the canvas, single and thoughtful, interrupts a dense surface of golden impasto, making the physical presence of the artist in the painting still well observable today.
- Michelangelo Pistoletto's *Autoritratto oro* (1960) captures a moment of transition in his artistic trajectory, utilizing traditional artistic techniques but anticipating his most well-regarded works of figures on mirrored surfaces, which began the following year. The image of the artist placed on a gold background is the playful counterpart to the 14<sup>th</sup> century paintings in which the gold ground indicates a sacred inclination.
- Fausto Melotti's *Il viaggio della Luna* (1974) is a key example of the artist's distinct visual language. The aerial sculpture depicts the lunar cycle in a linear narrative, as delicate and elegant as a musical score.

*ORO d'ITALIA* is the first program in the United States mounted by Casoli De Luca, founded by noted Italian gallerist Sergio Casoli and collector Mattia De Luca.

### **Concurrent Exhibition in Rome**

[Salvatore Falci, \*Conwith\*](#)

October 1–December 21, 2019

### **About Casoli De Luca**

Established in Rome in 2018, Casoli De Luca focuses on modern Italian masters and international contemporary artists. A noted gallerist and expert in post-war and modern art, founder Sergio Casoli started his first gallery in 1985 in the building where Lucio Fontana's studio was located in Milan. Later expanding to a second gallery in Milan and a third in Rome, Casoli ceased operations in 2001 to retire to Filicudi. He returned to the art world in 2018 to establish this new gallery with Mattia De Luca, a private art advisor and dealer of post-war and contemporary art who comes from a prominent family of Italian collectors. Casoli De Luca maintains an international and innovative program through exhibitions at its gallery in Palazzo Albertoni Spinola in the Piazza Campitelli in Rome and exhibits in select art fairs.

**New York Venue**

8 East 63rd Street

New York, NY 10065

[www.casolideluca.com](http://www.casolideluca.com)

Visiting Hours: Mondays–Saturdays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

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