

MAGAZZINO ITALIAN ART

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Magazzino Italian Art is dedicated to advancing scholarship and public appreciation of postwar and contemporary Italian art in the United States. Located in Cold Spring, New York, the nonprofit museum and research center serves as an advocate for Italian artists as it celebrates the range of their creative practice, from postwar to present day. Through its curatorial, public, and scholarly initiatives and partnerships, Magazzino explores the impact and enduring resonance of Italian art on a global level.

History and Facilities

Magazzino was co-founded by Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu, following their three decade-long support of Italian art and artists. Under the directorship of Vittorio Calabrese, Magazzino was launched in 2017 with a mission to serve as a cultural resource and platform for engaging with postwar and contemporary Italian art in the Hudson Valley community and beyond.

Magazzino's state-of-the-art facility, designed by Spanish architect Miguel Quismondo, features more than 18,000 square feet of exhibition space, as well as a research center and library. The museum sits on over nine acres of landscaped grounds, which hosts a rotating program of commissioned outdoor, site-specific works and includes a small Sardinian donkey farm, a bee sanctuary, and an apple orchard. The museum's name Magazzino—meaning “warehouse” in Italian—pays tribute to the building's former life as a computer manufacturing warehouse.

Exhibitions, Commissions, and Partnerships

Magazzino's curatorial and exhibition program provides a critical platform for American audiences to engage deeply with the work of postwar and contemporary Italian artists.

The museum's ongoing exhibition *Arte Povera* presents a comprehensive panorama on the artistic practice of the twelve artists associated with the movement: Alighiero Boetti, Gilberto Zorio, Giovanni Anselmo, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Penone, Jannis Kounellis, Luciano Fabro, Mario Merz, Marisa Merz, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Pier Paolo Calzolari, and Pino Pascali. On long-term view since 2018, the exhibition is regularly updated to incorporate different artistic perspectives and facets of *Arte Povera*.

Marking a new direction in the museum's programming, Magazzino mounted the first on-site exhibition of contemporary art in its history in July 2020 with the presentation of *Homemade* in Gallery 8. In October 2020, the museum debuted an exhibition exploring creative resonances between the practices of American artist Mel Bochner, Italian artist Alighiero Boetti, and Italian-Argentine artist Lucio Fontana, as well as parallel artistic

movements in the 1960s and 1970s in the U.S. and Italy. The gallery will continue to serve as the museum's dedicated space for special exhibitions and future projects.

The museum's commissioning program has resulted in the creation and display of new works of art, as well as the production of site-specific performance works that celebrate and embrace the community of Cold Spring. In 2017 and 2019, respectively, the museum commissioned Italian artists Michelangelo Pistoletto and Marinella Senatore to activate the streets of Cold Spring with participatory performance works, facilitating dynamic community collaboration and engagement.

In addition, Magazzino regularly collaborates with peer institutions to curate and present off-site exhibitions of Italian postwar and contemporary art at regional museums and cultural centers, as well as national arts and cultural institutions. Partners have included the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art and the Garrison Art Center from the Hudson Valley region; Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University, the Consulate General of Italy in New York, and the Italian Cultural Institute of New York, in New York City; as well as Palazzo di Città, Musei Civici di Cagliari in Italy. Through these partnerships, Magazzino has exhibited a range of Italian artists across generations, including Marco Anelli, Guido Gambone, Renato Leotta, Fausto Melotti, Valentina Ornaghi and Claudio Prestinari, Alessandro Piangiamore, and more.

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Public Programs

Magazzino's public programs comprise a full spectrum of artist talks, book presentations, concerts, films, scholarly lectures, and workshops that invite audiences to encounter new perspectives and aspects of Italian art and culture. Two signature series anchor the museum's on-site programming. Each spring, Magazzino's Scholar-in-Residence curates a lecture series that invites leading scholars from around the world to present on topics relating to postwar and contemporary Italian art, while every summer offers *Cinema in Piazza*, a summer film program organized by Magazzino Director Vittorio Calabrese and a guest curator.

Magazzino's Research Center and Annual Scholar-In-Residence Program

Enhancing its commitment to creating new opportunities for scholarly research and critical assessment, Magazzino launched its Research Center and Scholar-in-Residence program in 2018. Today, the Research Center includes a library and archive of over 5,000 books and publications of postwar and contemporary Italian art, design, and architecture. Open to the public and scholars by advance appointment, the Research Center also offers access to over twenty periodicals and state-of-the-art scanning technology.

The Scholar-in-Residence program is an annual fellowship that invites an emerging scholar to pursue or continue an independent project that contributes new research on postwar and contemporary Italian art. The Scholar-in-Residence also organizes and presents programming, including Magazzino's annual lecture series, as well as leads tours throughout the museum.