

Sistemi Semplici

Angela Bulloch, Enrico Castellani, Piero Dorazio, Donald Judd, Tomás Maldonado, Enzo Mari, Bruno Munari, Daniel Pflumm, Heimo Zobernig

Opening Wednesday 29 May 2024, 7 pm
Galleria Lia Rumma | Via Stilicone 19 | MILAN
Gallery opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11.00 am - 1.30 pm / 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm

“Sistemi Semplici” (Simple Systems) is a group exhibition, conceived by Lia Rumma and Gigiotto Del Vecchio, that will open at Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan on 29 May 2024.

The starting point of the exhibition is a reflection on the work of Tomás Maldonado, the Argentinian philosopher, artist and designer, and on the rational conception of form, colour and their different perceptions. Maldonado has steered education about art and design towards systemic thought in order to achieve a balance between science and design, theory and practice, incorporating methods of planning and the principles of perception and semiotics. In parallel to Maldonado’s oeuvre the exhibition also features the work of a group of artists close in age and thought – Piero Dorazio, Enzo Mari, Bruno Munari, Enrico Castellani and Donald Judd – culminating in more recent names who are leading figures of the contemporary evolution of this modular process.

These include the “televisual” abstraction of Heimo Zobernig, the reference of the pixels of the first video games (Tetris?) in the works of Angela Bulloch and the modules and other possibilities of the Internet which, in the late 1990s, represented for Daniel Pflumm the exchange of relations and the political possibility of altering information until it is turned into something purer, stripped of all forms of communicative frills.

“Sistemi Semplici” can unquestionably be defined as an exhibition of work by artists who, ranging from the post-World War II period to twenty-first century, share the desire to free art from a psychological or realistic dimension, with a special focus on signs and form which become the sole means of expression.

We thank the artists and Studio Angela Bulloch; Galleria Corraini; Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin | Cologne | Munich; Carlo Feltrinelli; kaufmann repetto, Milan | New York; Lorenzelli Arte, Milan; Galleria Massimo and Francesca Minini, Milan | Brescia and Eredi Enzo Mari; Galerie Neu, Berlin; Repetto Gallery, Lugano; Esther Schipper, Berlin | Paris | Seoul; Paolo Curti and Annamaria Gambuzzi; Daniele Milvio and Giorgia Garzilli.

WARNING: viewers sensitive to light and suffering from photosensitive epilepsy may be affected by some image sequences and flashing light effects



ANGELA BULLOCH: Angela Bulloch was born 1966 in Rainy River, Ontario, in Canada. She studied at Goldsmiths, University of London. The artist lives and works in Berlin. In 1997, Bulloch was nominated for the Turner Prize and in 2005, for the Berlin-based Preis der Nationalgalerie für junge Kunst. In 2011 she received the Vattenfall Contemporary Art Prize, as well as the Art Prize of the city of Wolfsburg. Angela Bulloch's work spans many media, manifesting her interest in systems, patterns and rules, as well as her preoccupation with the history of shapes and human interaction. She exhibited in several major institutions worldwide, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Tate, London, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

ENRICO CASTELLANI: (1930-2017). In 1952 he moved to Brussels where he studied painting at the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts and where in 1956 he graduated in architecture at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Cambre. From its inception until today, a series of important exhibitions in public and private spaces have followed. He participated in the Venice Biennale in 1964, 1966 (with a personal room), 1984 and 2003. Among the main solo exhibitions of recent years are the large anthological exhibition, curated by Germano Celant, at the Fondazione Prada in Milan in 2001 and at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge in 2002. In 2006 he exhibited at the Lia Rumma Gallery in Naples. Enrico Castellani died in Cellano in 2017.

PIERO DORAZIO: Dorazio was born in Rome in 1927. In 1947 he participated in the founding of the Forma 1 group, which elaborated the Manifesto of Formalism-Forma 1. In 1953 he went to the United States, where he met Motherwell, Rothko, Kiesler, Kline and Clement Greenberg, and held his first solo exhibitions at the Wittenborn One-Wall Gallery in New York. He has held numerous retrospective exhibitions in Italy and abroad, including at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (1979), at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo (1979) and at the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rome (1983). Dorazio was constantly present in important international exhibitions, such as the Venice Biennale where the artist exhibited in 1960, 1966 and 1988. The artist died in May 2005.

DONALD JUDD: Donald Clarence Judd was born in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, 1928. Judd studied philosophy and art history at Columbia University and painting at the Art Students League. From 1959 to 1965, he worked as an art critic, often writing over a dozen reviews a month. Judd was a painter until the early 1960s, when he began making work in three dimensions which changed the idea of art. For almost four decades, Judd exhibited throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia with his work in museum collections worldwide. Major exhibitions of his work include the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1968, 1988); the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (1975); Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (1970); Tate Modern, London (2004); and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2020).

TOMÁS MALDONADO: Tomás Maldonado was born in Buenos Aires in 1922, from 1943 to 1954 he actively participated in the artistic avant-garde in Argentina. He has collaborated with the magazines "Arturo", "Arte Concreto-Invencción" and "Ciclo", and has directed "Nueva vision". His works are included in important public and private collections in Argentina, Switzerland, Germany, the United States, Venezuela and Italy. In 1954, he moved to Germany, where he lived until 1967. IN 1968 the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers awarded him the Design Medal, the highest distinction in the field of industrial design. In 1969 he settled permanently in Italy. In 1998 the President of the Italian Republic awarded him the "Gold Medal and the First Class Diploma, a distinction reserved for meritorious in science and culture". In 2001, he was awarded Doctor Honoris Causa by the Polytechnic University of Milan, the University of Cordoba and the University of Buenos Aires. Thomas Maldonado died in Milan in 2018.

ENZO MARI: Enzo Mari was born in 1932 in Novara and began his career as a designer in 1957. He took part in the Kinetic Art movement, a movement that brought the work of art closer to the industrial project, and there he met Bruno Munari, who influenced many of his works. During his career, Enzo Mari has been a lecturer at numerous universities, including the Politecnico di Milano, and has received numerous awards, including five Compasso d'Oro awards. Enzo Mari died at the age of 88 in 2020. The same year Hans Ulrich Obrist curated his main retrospective at Triennale Milano, where 250 of Enzo Mari's works could be admired.

BRUNO MUNARI: Born in Milan in 1907. He took part in the events of the second Milanese Futurism, participating in the group exhibitions of the Galleria Pesaro as well as in the Venice Biennale and the Rome and Paris Quadrennials of the 1930s. From 1934 to 1936 he devoted himself to abstract painting. In 1948, together with Soldati, Monnet and Dorfler, he founded the MAC (Movement for Concrete Art). In the 1950s his research resumed with a series of "concave-convex" sculptures (1949-65), "positive-negative" paintings (1951 and following), and three-dimensional experimental models (*Composition on the square; Travel sculptures; Continuous structures*). He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Compasso d'Oro of the Industrial Design Association (1954, 1955, 1979 and 1995 for Lifetime Achievement); the honorable mention of the New York Academy of Sciences (1974). Munari died in Milan in 1998.

DANIEL PFLUMM: Daniel Pflumm is a central figure in the dynamic scene and underground club culture of 1990s Berlin. Pflumm played a key role in the process of creating and engaging in the context of capitalism's conquest of the former East; a critical dialogue between electronic music production, art making and corporate aesthetics. Pflumm's work hovers between promise and emptiness, glamour and ruin, reflecting on the impact of corporations and mass media on our lives. Carrying a powerful poetry of subversion in the context of global capitalism, his work echoes in constant loop and will remain relevant in our capitalist culture.

HEIMO ZOBERNIG: Heimo Zobernig was born in 1958, in Mauthen, Austria and currently lives in Vienna, he has been teaching at the Academy of Fine Art in Vienna since 1999. He was the recipient of the Otto Mauer Prize in 1993, followed in 1997 by the City of Vienna's Prize for Fine Art. Zobernig has mined various art historical moments and movements, specifically Modernism, post-Modernism, Geometric Abstraction and Minimalism, with a rigorous and interrogatory spirit. The artist has had numerous international solo exhibitions, including Micheline Szwajcer, Antwerp (2020); Simon Lee, Hong Kong (2019); MIT List Visual Arts Center, Boston (2017); Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2016); the Austrian Pavillion, La Biennale di Venezia (2015).