

Tornabuoni Art brings major Italian art figures to FIAC

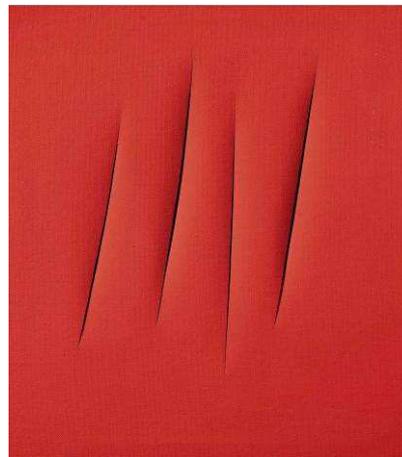
from 20 to 23 October 2011

– stand no. E30 –

For its tenth participation in the FIAC from 20 to 23 October 2011, Tornabuoni Art is designing an exhibit featuring the big names in Italian art from the second half of the 20th century, such as Alighiero Boetti, Agostino Bonalumi, Alberto Burri, Enrico Castellani, Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni, Pino Pascali, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Mimmo Rotella, Emilio Vedova... Beneath the glass dome of the Grand Palais, Tornabuoni Art will present their works, along with the works of other must-see artists in the international art market lineup, such as Jean-Michel Basquiat and Dubuffet. To be seen at stand no. E30.

Lucio Fontana and Alighiero Boetti, two 20th-century avant-garde Italian artists

As if to echo the inaugural exhibition marking the opening of the Tornabuoni Art gallery in Paris in October 2009, Michele Casamonti and Gaïa Donzet are devoting a portion of their exhibit space to **Lucio Fontana** (1899-1968). As an Italian painter of Argentine descent, Lucio Fontana founded the "**Spatialist Movement**" in Milan in the late 1940s. With his keen interest in notions of space, time, and energy, instead of seeing the canvas as merely a "passive" surface, a foundation for colours, he considered it a space worthy of interest in and of itself. In **monochromes** which he calls "**Spatial Concepts**", Fontana imparts a creative gesture that subtracts more than it adds: **he scratches, pierces, lacerates...** In so doing, he **gives life** to the canvas, gives it a **rhythm** and **force**. In 2010, Tornabuoni Art made one of the biggest sales of the FIAC with a monochrome by Lucio Fontana, a *Spatial Concept* from 1966, which sold for **€2 million**.



Lucio Fontana, *Spatial Concept*. Attese, 1966, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 55 cm

Tornabuoni Art is also pleased to present the works of another historical figure in contemporary Italian art, **Alighiero Boetti** (1940-1994), at the FIAC. In the spring of 2010, the gallery had honoured him with a masterful exposition, hailed by more than 4000 international visitors, including institutional visitors. And so, concurrently with the FIAC, Tornabuoni Art is happy to lend out works by Boetti for the major retrospective starting in October at the **Reina Sofia Museum** in Madrid (from 5 October to 12 February 2012). This travelling retrospective will then be featured at the **Tate** in London and the New York **MoMA**.



ALIGHIERO BOETTI, *Mappa*, 1979, Embroidery on fabric, 98 x 164 cm

Moreover, Boetti's works are highly sought after by auction houses. In June 2010, Christie's set a **record** with the sale of a 1989 *Mappa* for **£1,833,250**.

As a major protagonist in **Arte Povera** (he participated in the founding exhibition of this movement in 1967) and **Conceptual Art**, Boetti has deeply pondered the artist's role. At stand E30 one can see his notorious "**Mappa**", a series of works which he started in 1971 and continued until the end of his life. These **embroidered planispheres**, of **quasi historical value**, portray the flags of countries at a **given time in the history of the world's nations**. Through these world maps, Boetti bears witness to his concerned focus on the world and its **geopolitical (dis)order**, while establishing a link between art and craft. Indeed, he had these tapestry pieces made by Afghan, and later Pakistani, women.

About the gallery...

Specializing primarily in Italian art from the second half of the 20th century, the gallery organizes important retrospectives on major post-war Italian artists and exhibitions of groups of fundamental international artists. Tornabuoni Art thus presents significant works by the primary authors of the Italian "Novecento": **De Chirico, Morandi, Balla, Severini**, and international avant-garde artists of the 20th century: **Picasso, Mirò, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Warhol, Wesselmann, Basquiat...**



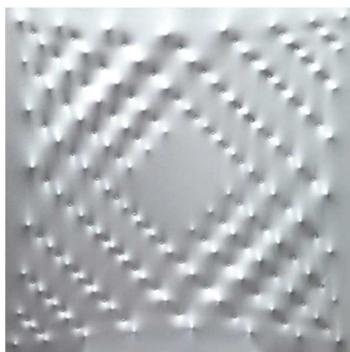
JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT Skull, 1984
huile sur toile, cm. 173 x 219

The Paris exhibitions are handled by **Michele Casamonti** and **Gaïa Donzet** in collaboration with **Tornabuoni Arte** in **Florence**, which was the first gallery created in 1981 by **Roberto Casamonti** in the street that is its namesake. Since then, Tornabuoni Art has opened galleries in Milan in 1995, **Portofino** in 2001, **Forte Dei Marmi** in 2004, and lastly Paris in 2009 to be closer to its clients and optimally meet the expectations of its audience of international collectors.

A major retrospective dedicated to Enrico Castellani at Tornabuoni Art gallery

From 14 October to 17 December 2011, the Tornabuoni Art gallery will show a masterful retrospective devoted to **Enrico Castellani** through **some 45 works of art**. **Known for his monochromatic embossed canvasses**, **Castellani (born in 1930)** is a major Italian figure associated with the **ZERO movement** who, by rejuvenating the language of image and form, greatly contributed to the development of avant-garde artists in Europe in the 1950s and 1960s. Donald Judd saw him as the father of minimalism.

Enrico Castellani, Silver Surface, 2005
acrylic on embossed canvas, 80x80 cm



Enrico Castellani proceeded to produce **monochromatic pieces rendered dynamic by the action of disturbing elements: nails**. Indeed, behind a canvas stretched over a wood frame, Castellani places nails that raise or lower the canvas and so create an interplay of light and shadow. In 1959 Castellani made his first **embossed surface**, his first "**extra-flexed**" **monochrome**, which would be followed by multiple variations in the distribution of the various components. In so doing, he inaugurated his own personal poetics with the technique of "differing repetition", by carefully choosing the placement of the recesses and reliefs that give rhythm to his canvasses.

The Italian Experimentation room opens with one of his works in the new contemporary collections area of the Pompidou Centre (level 4). In addition to this public recognition, Enrico Castellani also attracts collectors: his works sometimes go for as much as **one million dollars** on the auction block.

Tornabuoni Art

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