



GILBERTO ZORIO
curated by Gianfranco Maraniello

MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna
October 15th, 2009 – February 7th, 2010

From October 15th, 2009, to February 7th, 2010 MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna hosts one of the most relevant names in Italian Contemporary Art: *Gilberto Zorio*. After Giovanni Anselmo, Luigi Ontani and Giuseppe Penone, Zorio – internationally acknowledged as one of the main artists of Arte Povera – will be the protagonist of one of the most exhaustive exhibitions of his work so far, showcasing his research from its beginnings to the present day.

The works on display explore the different themes which have always characterized Zorio's work, and fully cover an arc of time stretching from 1966 to 2009. Reaching beyond a mere retrospective selection, the works are catalysts for reflections and discourses centered on their own practice: they compose much more than a simple chronological reconstruction, and – according to the artist's specific design – they set up a dialectical relation with each other.

Among the show's key features are the broadness of the selection of works – which rarely has been equaled in a single Italian Museum – as well as the spectacularly magical exhibition setup, allowing Zorio's art to exceed passive visibility and act within the museum's context.

The pivotal piece of the exhibition path is *Torre Stella Bologna*, a work specifically realized by the artist for the present show: a dramatic architectural intervention, a tower with a five-pointed star layout rising like a fortress in the Sala delle Ciminiere.

The work, taking up Zorio's recurrent symbolism, has a somewhat mysterious dimension: its star-like shape, "the universe's projection in our consideration of things", isn't immediately evident, but can only be grasped by following its perimeter.

The space absorbs its strong impact and is modeled by it; the star's points cut through the exhibition space and radiate energy in the museum's various areas, often reaching out of the rooms themselves.

Many other big-sized works in the exhibition involve constant elements of Zorio's artistic language: the canoe, the javelin, the crucible in his intentions all gain an archetypal status as forms chosen by the human being to measure the incommensurable. Other key works are *Macchia III* (1968), set in the museum lobby as an introduction to the artist's universe; early works such as *Letto* (1966), *Pelli con resistenza* (1968), *Luci* (1968), *Per purificare le parole* (1969), *Odio* (1969); the star in its different versions, from *Stella incandescente* (1972), *Stella di giavellotti* (1974) and *Stella di bronzo* (1978) to the more recent *Stella Sparks* (2008) and *Stella Pyrex* (2009); the canoe, a means of exploration central to *Canoa* (1987), *Canoa che avanza* (2008), *Canoa che ruota* (2009); the *Crogiuoli* from 1981.

The exhibition path underlines Zorio's deep fascination for physical, chemical and alchemical processes, traceable to his early works from the late Sixties and early Seventies, as well as his interest in all those modifications, aggregations, tensions and contrasts within matter itself that can lead to the revelation of new possibilities.

The presence of electric devices, fluorescences, strobe lights and laser beams prepares visitors for the unforeseen, and leads them to surrender themselves to the surprise of an ever-becoming art.

The show and the reconstruction of Zorio's complex artistic universe has been possible thanks to an array of important loans, obtained through the invaluable cooperation of Italian and International Museums and Institutions, among which: GAM - Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino, Castello di Rivoli, Musée d'Art Moderne di Saint-Etienne (France), SMAK Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst di Gent (Belgium), Kunstmuseum Wintherthur (Switzerland), l'IVAM in Valencia (Spain), as well as many Private Collectors and Galleries.

Alongside the exhibition, the second volume of the INSTANT BOOK collection will be published, after a first book on Giuseppe Penone: a supple reader including a conversation between Gilberto Zorio and Gianfranco Maraniello as well as a photographic selection of the artist's work.

Guided tours and workshops held by the museum's Educational department shed light on Zorio's artistic career and on his MAMbo show. As usual, the activities will be conceived specifically for the various publics and age ranges.



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Technical sponsor for the show:



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GILBERTO ZORIO
BIO

Gilberto Zorio was born in 1944 in Andorno Micca (Biella). He lives and works in Turin.

After studying at the Turin Academy of Fine Arts, he soon emerges as one of the protagonists of the Arte Povera movement starting in Italy in the mid-Sixties.

His research has always been centered on energy conceived as a poetic blast, on the individuation of absolute, ancestral symbols summarizing the universality of an ever-changing reflection. The artist focuses on all things transforming, metamorphosing, on alchemy, to investigate the mutations taking place within matters through natural phenomena and chemical reactions. Electricity is often used in his works, which include luminous and phosphorescent devices. Shapes – stars, javelins, torches – evoke energy, while materials are frequently delicate, fragile, in opposition to his sculptures' huge dimensions.

Starting with his early shows in Turin, at the Piccola Galleria d'Arte Moderna (1963) and in Gian Enzo Sperone's gallery (1967), major International galleries and museums have hosted Zorio's solo shows. A selection: Galerie Sonnabend, Paris, (1969); Kunstmuseum, Luzern (1976); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1979); Galerie Eric Fabre, Paris (1980); Sonnabend Gallery, New York (1981); Galleria Civica di Modena, (1985); Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart (1985); Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva (1986); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1986); Tel Aviv Museum (1987); Philadelphia Tyler School of Art (1988); Fundação de Serralves, Oporto (1990); Institut Valencià d'Arte Modern, Valencia (1991); Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Pecci, Prato (1992); Dia Art Foundation, New York (2001); Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt (2005); Sonnabend Gallery, New York (2006); Galerie Baronian-Francey, Bruxelles (2009).

WORKS LIST

Letto

1966

steel pipes, black rubber rods, lead sheet

h. 85 x 200 x 250 cm.

IVAM, Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Generalitat

Senza titolo

1966

steel pipes, painted expanded polyurethane, rope, black rubber rod,
aluminum pipe

h. 430 x 255 x 380 cm.

Senza titolo

1967

aluminum pipe, inner tube

h. 220 x 150 x 10 cm.

Winterthur, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, bought with the Erna and Curt
Burgauer endowment, 2005

Senza titolo

1967

chalk, cobalt chloride, fiber-cement cylinder

h. 150 x 60 x 50 cm.

Private collection

Arco voltaico

1968

leather, copper pipes, gold plate, electric arc

200 x 80 x 45 cm

Musée d'Art Moderne de Saint-Étienne Métropole

Arco voltaico

1968

leather, brass rod, electric arc, timer

h. 150 x 80 x 40 cm.

Macchia III

1968

ropes, rubber

h. 390 x 1820 x 870 cm.

Fondazione CRT Progetto Arte Moderna e Contemporanea.

Permanent loan - Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli,
GAM - Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin

Senza titolo

1968

fiber-cement bowl, sulfur with iron filings, magnet, polyethylene handle
h. 22 x Φ 120 cm.

Lia Rumma Collection

Senza titolo

1968

fiber-cement bowl, sulfur with iron sandblasting, magnet, polyethylene
handle

h. 22 x Φ 120 cm.

Private collection

Luci

1968

8 concrete blocks, 12 lamps, electric wires

h. 465 x 660 x 120 cm.

Pelli con resistenza

1968

two cowhides, incandescent nickel-chromium, electric wires

h. 465 x 580 x 100 cm.

Microfoni

1968

microphones, mixer, amplifier, echo effect, loudspeakers, concrete blocks
room dimensions

Per purificare le parole

1969

clay case, alcohol, ropes, lamp

h. 125 x 100 x 45 cm.

The Sonnabend Collection

Odio

1969

lead, ropes

lead brick: h. 8 x 74 x 15 cm., ropes: room dimensions

Private collection

Confine incandescente

1970

incandescent nickel-chromium, electric wires
1200 cm.

Fluidità radicale

1971

steel javelin, plexiglas, phosphorescent resin, phosphorus
h. 260 x Φ 3,5 cm.
Eric Fabre Collection, Brussels

Pugno fosforescente

1971

phosphorescent wax, two lamps, two easels, timer
h. 150 x 240 x 115 cm.

E' utopia, la realtà, è rivelazione

1971

iron, phosphorescent letters, fluorescent letters, halogen lamp, Wood's lamp
h. 280 x 400 x 190 cm.

Stella incandescente (verticale)

1972

aluminum javelin, incandescent nickel-chromium, electric wires, porcelain
h. 230 x 250 x 260 cm.

Evviva di giavellotti (da Giovanni Anselmo)

1974

4 aluminum javelins, 12 lamps, 12 sockets, electric wires
h. 178 x 290 x 260 cm.

Stella di giavellotti

1974

5 steel javelins
h. 270 x 270 x Φ 3,5 cm.
Private Collection, Turin

Stella di giavellotti

1974

5 aluminum javelins
h. 280 x 280 x Φ 3,5 cm.

Internazionale

1975
projector, slide, CD player, timer
room dimensions

Stella di cristallo

1977
crystal, two coppered steel javelins
h. 170 x 180 x 265 cm.
Fondazione CRT – Progetto Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, permanent
loan c/o: Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino

Senza titolo

1978
clay, javelin
h. 260 x Φ 85 cm.
Private Collection

Stella di bronzo

1978
brass, clay, copper sulfate, fluorescein, parchment
h. 230 x 270 x 35 cm.
Fondazione CRT – Progetto Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, permanent
loan c/o: Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino

Autoritratto

1978
clay, iron structure, resistor
h. 190 x 120 x 25 cm.
Lisa and Tucci Russo Collection

Per purificare le parole

1979
iron structure, leather case, alcohol, bronze, lamp
h. 205 x 330 x 380 cm.
S.M.A.K. Collection (Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst), Gent

Crogiuoli

1981
two crucibles, copper bar, iron pipes, acidulated water, copper sulphite
h. 350 x 560 x 515 cm.
Oredaria Arti Contemporanee Collection, Rome

Stella su giavellotti

1985

leather star, two iron javelins

h. 230 x 242 x 280 cm.

Private Collection, Lucca

Canoa

1987

wooden canoe, rubber, iron pipes, pyrex, copper sulphate, compressor, hiss, timer

h. 360 x 770 x 360 cm.

GAM – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin

Cerchio di Grazia

2006

star cut in black paper, two sheets

Φ 100 cm.

Private Collection, Milan

Canoa che avanza

2007

canoe, two pigskin bags, iron structure, aluminum pipes, compressor, hiss, timer

variable dimensions

Stella di cuoio su giavellotti

2007

leather, two copper and aluminum javelins

h. 205 x 215 x 295 cm.

Oredaria Arti Contemporanee Collection, Rome

Stella Sparks

2008

aluminum, ten strobe lights, ten Tesla coil transformers, phosphorus, timer

h. 500 x 480 x 190 cm.

Torre Stella Bologna

2009

Gasbeton block structure, steel and copper pipes, Masai spear, alembic, fluorescein, phosphorus, strobe lights, hiss, timer

room dimensions

technical sponsor COOP.COSTRUZIONI

Stella Pyrex

2009

ten aluminum pipes, ten iron joints, ten alembics, two compressors, rubber pipes, water, fluorescein, hiss, timer
h. 700 x 680 x 320 cm.

Canoa che ruota

2009

canoe, stainless steel pipes, aluminum pipes, compressor, three pigskin bags, hiss, timer
variable dimensions

Stella di giavellotti

2009

5 coppered steel javelins
h. 280 x 280 x 3,5 cm.



TECHNICAL SHEET

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Curator:	Gianfranco Maraniello
Venue:	MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna via Don Minzoni 14 – Bologna
Dates:	October 15 th , 2009 – February 7 th , 2010
Opening times:	tue-sun 10 am – 6 pm; thu 10 am – 10 pm; closed on mondays
Tickets:	€ 6 / € 4
Information:	tel. 051 6496611 - fax 051 6496600 info@mambo-bologna.org www.mambo-bologna.org
Guided tours:	advance booking is required for groups and schools tel. 051 6496626 – 628 mamboedu@comune.bologna.it Groups (30 people max.): € 80 Foreign language tours: € 100 Schools: € 50
Workshop:	Workshop for primary and high school: € 100 (including a visit without audio guide) tel. 051 6496626 – 628 mamboedu@comune.bologna.it
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