



PRESS RELEASE

Marco Gastini

Contrappunti. Con una finestra sullo studio.

MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

29 January – 1 April 2012

Special visit for the public at 6 p.m. on Saturday 28 January 2012

At 6 p.m. on Saturday 28 January, there will be a special visit for the public for the presentation of *Contrappunti C* (2011), a work by **Marco Gastini** recently donated by the artist to the MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna. The reception of the work into the museum's **Permanent Collection** provides the occasion (until 1 April 2012) to present the other three canvases from the *Contrappunti* cycle, together with a selection of 22 works made between the end of the 1960s and the present day which offer a dialogue of great intensity.

The exhibition, which bears the title *Contrappunti. Con una finestra sullo studio.*, draws the gaze of the observer into the main landscapes of an artistic thinking centred on the archetypal elements of gesture, sign, matter which, through breaking through the surface of the canvas, effects a linguistic break with formalistic traditions in order to test the new-found space, understood as both a physical and mental one, a place in which painting effects actions.

Gastini's work here is conceived with an essentially spatial intent based upon a dialectic between the works and the walls, pointing out the sense of continuity between the space of the artistic gesture and the spatial dimension in which this is effected.

The central nucleus of the exhibition is the cycle of four *Contrappunti* canvases executed in 2011 and inspired by a lengthy visit to the countryside around Salento, from which the artist drew inspiration for his own painterly research in examining the materials and traditions of local craftsmen. The works face each other in a series of cross-references and echoes of colour and matter that tend to cancel out the distance of the space between them, and also draw in the other works into a single environment criss-crossed by uninterrupted pictorial flows.

All the works on show share a complex and refined assembly of heterogeneous and traditionally non-pictorial materials (Indian slate, chalk, lead, glass, Plexiglas). With their dominant expressive sense of the physical, these thrust out towards the perceptive attention of the observer like three-dimensional vortices battering at the senses.



During the entire period the exhibition is open, at 4 p.m. on every second Sunday of the month, the **MAMbo Educational Department** will be offering guided visits to the Permanent Collection, with a special focus on Marco Gastini.

Entrance: € 4 per person plus entrance to the Permanent Collection (€ 6 full, € 4 concessionary), minimum 6 and maximum 30 people. Information and bookings: tel. +39 051 6496652 (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.); tel. +39 051 6496611 (Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

The special focus on Marco Gastini coincides with *Prospettive. Nuovi percorsi nelle Collezioni del MAMbo*, a new format for exploring the Permanent Collection aiming to highlight the donation of works through an exhibition focusing on the contextualisation of the artist and his work in a broad, interlinked academic and didactic itinerary for the public.

The exhibition forms part of an exhibition project throughout the city of Bologna, documenting the artistic development of Marco Gastini from the 1970s to his most recent work, simultaneously involving not only the MAMbo, but also the spaces of **OTTO Gallery** and **Palazzo Pepoli Campogrande**, an annex of the Soprintendenza per i Beni Storici, Artistici ed Etnoantropologici of Bologna.

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BIOGRAPHY

Marco Gastini was born in Turin in 1938 and currently lives and works there. A graduate of the Painting School at the Accademia Albertina, in 1964 he arranged his first personal show at the Galleria del Falò in Alba. At the end of the 1960s, he developed a form of painting able to be perceived with all the senses and in every articulation of space.

Moved by the need to overcome the stagnation in which late-informal painting found itself, the artist initially worked on the definition of a form of painting investigating the elements determining its essential expressive degree: the minimal sign, spatial presence, chromatic cancellation, to arrive subsequently at a vision that cannot be classified amongst the trends of the time. The problem of space, be it mental or physical, as place of action in painting, always accompanies him.

With the cycle of *Macchie 1970* and *Disegni 1971*, his painting began to delineate a series of linguistic elements able to consent a linking up between sign, support and other devices used to create spatiality, joined from time to time with highly varied and traditionally non-pictorial materials, such as lead, aluminium, paper, stone and Plexiglass. After his personal show at the Cirrus Gallery in Los Angeles in 1975 and at the John Weber Gallery of New York in 1977, he was in Milan in 1978 at the Studio Grossetti.

In these years, the use of colour became a protagonist of his work, together with the most varied of materials: wood, metal, minerals, parchment; all helped in the development of his work.

His works were included in major exhibitions of analytic painting, such as *La riflessione sulla pittura* (1973) and *Gelante Malerei at Munster* (1974-75). In the 1980s, his collaboration with Italian, European and American galleries continued intensely: in 1982, the Lenbachhaus in Munich hosted the artist's first major retrospective, followed by exhibitions in 1983 at the Galleria Civica di Modena and in 1984 at the PAC of Milan, curated by Paolo Fossati, who in 1988 would write a monograph about Marco Gastini for Edizioni Essegi. In 1992, the Galleria d'Arte Moderna of Bologna dedicated an exhibition to Villa delle Rose, as did the Galleria Civica of Trento in 1993. It is also worth recalling a major retrospective at the Kunstverein of Frankfurt and St. Gallen.

In the middle of the 1990s, a transformation in Gastini's artistic vocabulary becomes evident, giving rise to works in which the signs are rendered material with bands and metal washers, always in close plastic relationship with the paint on the support. In 1997, the artist was present in Siena with the *Scommessa* exhibition, in which the works installed in various zones of the city maintained a dialogue with the history and atmosphere of the place. In 1998, the Orangerie of Weimar Castle exhibited a large installation that held a dialogue with the whole space and the presence of nature.

After 2005, the artist focused once more on the space of the single, large canvas. The warm, responsive nature of terracotta was called into play, and in the same canvas this sometimes offset echoes of works of the 1970s, such



as a white surface dotted with fine marks. Frequent too was the use of aluminium and slate. During these years, Gastini regularly held personal shows in major Italian galleries. The city of Turin dedicated a large retrospective to him in 2001 in the spaces of the Promotrice at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna, which was subsequently presented also at the Lenbachhaus in Munich. In 2005, there were two major exhibitions: at the CAMEC in La Spezia and at the Kunsthalle of Göppingen; in 2008-2009, he exhibited at the Galleria dello Scudo in Verona. Gastini also has produced a number of installations, including those in the church of St. James at Treville (2005) and in the woods of Bossolasco (2008); since 2009, he has participated in the *Luci d'Artista* project in Turin, with a striking installation in the Galleria Subalpina with blue neon lights. Invited several times to the Venice Biennale, the artist is present with his works in numerous private collections and museums around the world.

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LIST OF WORKS

Contrappunti A, 2011

Mixed media and Indian slate on canvas
220 x 180 cm
Courtesy the artist

Contrappunti B, 2011

Mixed media and Indian slate on canvas
220 x 180 cm
Courtesy the artist

Contrappunti C, 2011

Mixed media and Indian slate on canvas
220 x 180 cm
Courtesy the artist

Contrappunti D, 2011

Mixed media and Indian slate on canvas
220 x 180 cm
Courtesy the artist

Per "Casetta", 2009

Mixed media on paper
35,5 x 25,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Due, 1972

Scratched plexiglas
149 x 149 cm
Courtesy the artist

Pittura, 1970

High-metal-content paint on plexiglas
65 x 65 cm
Courtesy the artist

Disegno per "Lastra", 1970

High-metal-content paint on paper
100 x 70 cm
Courtesy the artist

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7/11, 2011
Mixed media and slate on paper
36 x 26 cm
Courtesy the artist

3/8, 2004
Mixed media on glass
15 x 15 cm
Courtesy the artist

Progetto per telone di polietilene, 1970
Charcoal and graphite on paper
29,5 x 41,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Untitled, 1969
Lead and antimony castings on chalk
21 x 39 cm
Courtesy the artist

Untitled, 1970
High-metal-content paint on plexiglas
23,5 x 23,5 cm
the artist

Macchie, s.d. (1969)
Graphite and tempera on paper
10,5 x 15,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Nel percorso, 2007
Mixed media and slate on canvas
340 x 60 x 29 cm
Private collection

Quattro, 1970
Graphite on paper
29 x 40,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Untitled, 1969
High-metal-content paint on plexiglas
45,3 x 46 cm
Courtesy the artist

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Per "Contrappunti", 2011
Mixed media and slate on paper
44 x 30,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Untitled, 1970
Scratched plexiglas
23,5 x 23,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Untitled, 2011
Mixed media and slate on paper
77 x 57 cm
Courtesy the artist

Intrecci 1, 2007
Mixed media on glass, slate
71,5 x 47 cm
Courtesy the artist

Progetto per telone di polietilene, 1969
Graphite and charcoal on paper
29,5 x 41,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Otto macchie - 1, 1969
Lead and antimony castings on chalk
22,5 x 34,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

Lastra, s.d. (1970)
Graphite and charcoal on paper
10,5 x 15,5 cm
Courtesy the artist

1 + 1, 1972
Scratched plexiglas
25 x 25 cm each plate
Courtesy the artist

Progetto per LP 220, 1970
Graphite and charcoal on paper
10,5 x 15,5 cm
Courtesy the artist



TECHNICAL SHEET

Title:	Marco Gastini <i>Contrappunti. Con una finestra sullo studio.</i>
Exhibition venue:	MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna Via Don Minzoni 14 – Bologna
Exhibition dates:	29 January – 1 April 2012
Special visit for the public:	Saturday 28 January, 6 p.m.
Opening times:	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 12 a.m. – 6 p.m. Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 12 a.m. – 8 p.m. Closed Monday
Extraordinary opening times:	from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 January, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Entrance:	full 6 €; reductions 4 €
Information:	ph. +39 051 6496611 – fax +39 051 6496600 info@mambo-bologna.org www.mambo-bologna.org
Guided visits Educational Department:	booking is obligatory for groups and schools ph. +39 051 6496652 / 611 mamboedu@comune.bologna.it groups (maximum 30 people) € 80 visits in other languages € 100 schools € 80
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MAMbo is supported by:	Comune di Bologna Regione Emilia-Romagna Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna
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