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Parte del circuito  
**MASIL**Lugano

# At the studio

26th March - 11th June 2023

Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati

PRESS RELEASE

Lugano, 3rd March 2023

From 26th March to 11th June 2023 the Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati continues its exploration and presentation of the collection with an exhibition entitled "At the studio" curated by Danna Olgiati, with an essay by Alberto Salvadori.

Inspired by the title of Ilya Kabakov's work, an autobiographical view of the great avant-garde movements of the past, and specifically his love for seventeenth-century painting, the exhibition presented by the Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati in spring 2023 mainly features works that forge an ongoing dialogue between the present and the past - many of them recent acquisitions - in which the concept of the artist's studio is explored in various forms and media.

## At the Studio

Ilya Kabakov's 2021 work *At the Studio variation n.3* is the inspiration for the spring show staged by the Collezione Olgiati, which sets out to examine and trace the formation of one of the biggest art collections in Switzerland. This project arose from Danna and Giancarlo Olgiati's idea of exploring a well-defined physical and mental space, that of the studio, the home and treasure trove of two collectors with a markedly humanistic outlook. Over the years, the fact of living with and for art has taken them into the dimension where the human gaze dims, and that of the artist lights up.

The huge canvas by the Ukrainian artist, the starting point of the entire project, highlights compositions that are sumptuously laden with allusions. The configuration echoes that made famous by Velazquez in his 1656 masterpiece *Las Meninas*, arguably one of the most studied paintings in history, which introduced a new way of seeing and relating to art, casting the viewer as the dominant figure in the relationship with the artwork. The exhibition presents a selection of very diverse works, from the 18th century mosaic, intended for private viewing and which remained so for centuries - a source of papal devotion, and for a cleric of the calibre of Rosmini - before passing to the collector's ancestors, to pieces by artists who are fully in step with the zeitgeist; contemporary and topical. Walking through an artist's studio means coming across things we might expect to see but are not familiar with. The show occupies a succession of rooms inhabited by artists of different eras whose works forge a dialogue rich in visual, conceptual and sentimental resonances and references, mingling different levels of thought. The artists featured are Vincenzo Agnetti, Nairy Baghramian, Louise Bourgeois, Giorgio de Chirico, Emilio Isgrò, Ilya Kabakov, Arturo Martini, Fausto Melotti, Marisa Merz, Ugo Mulas, Henrik Olesen, Giulio Paolini, Paola Pivi, Pietro Roccasalva, Pamela Rosenkranz, Alberto Savinio, Gino Severini, Tatiana Trouvé, Cy Twombly, Franco Vimercati and Rachel Whiteread. This is a journey through a studio, conceived and constructed between the desk in the Olgiati's study and their daily practice of engaging with artists and their works, to add meaning to life. Coming back to the Kabakovs,

conceptual artists *par excellence*, they are well aware that a painting is not a mirror reflecting everything they have experienced, but they know that it is a powerful, expressive object.

### **Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati**

The Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati, which is open to the public in the exhibition space adjacent to the LAC cultural center, boasts more than two hundred works of great artistic significance, selected according to the focus of each exhibition. One of Switzerland's leading collections of Italian art from the early twentieth century to the present, along with the Nouveaux Réalistes and international contemporary art, it is put on show twice a year in exhibitions that highlight different aspects of it, alternated with temporary shows that take an in-depth look at the work of featured artists. Giancarlo and Danna Olgiati believe that the City of Lugano, with the MASI, will be the natural beneficiary of the Collection, and since 2012 the Collection has been granted in trust to the City. In 2018, the two Collectors donated 76 works to MASI, consolidating their connection with the city's Museum, and in line with the Swiss tradition of public institutions and private collectors working together.

## **Information**

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### Opening hours:

Friday - Sunday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Free admission

## **Press Contacts**

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## Selection of media images

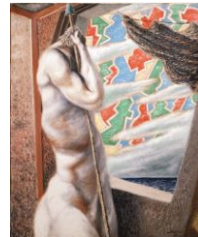
01.  
Ilya Kabakov  
*At The Studio Variation n. 3*  
2021  
Oil on canvas  
209 x 275 cm  
© 2023, ProLitteris, Zurich



02.  
Giorgio De Chirico  
*Armoires dans une vallée* (Dressers in a Valley)  
1926  
Oil on canvas  
65 x 54 cm  
Ph. Todd White Art Photography  
© 2023, ProLitteris, Zurich



03.  
Alberto Savinio  
*Dedalo* (Dedalus)  
1929  
Oil on canvas  
73 x 60 cm  
Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati, Lugano  
Ph. Alessandro Zambianchi  
Courtesy the artist and MASSIMODECARLO



04.  
Louise Bourgeois  
*Night Sky*  
2002  
Chalk and paper collage on paper  
98.1 x 72.4 cm  
© The Easton Foundation / 2023, ProLitteris, Zurich



05.  
Emilio Isgrò  
*Johanna e Juditta (La veglia di Bach)*  
(Johanna and Juditta (Bach's Vigil))  
1985  
Mixed media on canvas on board  
190 x 119 cm



06.  
Marisa Merz  
*Untitled*  
2010  
Mixed media on plywood, copper  
200 x 125 cm  
© 2023, ProLitteris, Zurich



07.  
Fausto Melotti  
*Tempo felice* (Happy Time)  
1983  
Brass and painted terracotta  
101 x 87 x 32 cm  
© 2023, ProLitteris, Zurich



08.  
mosaic panel depicting Magdalene reading the bible  
Vatican Mosaic Studio  
late 18th century  
spun mosaic on copper base  
38 x 28.5 cm



09.  
Ugo Mulas  
*Alexander Calder a Saché, Francia*  
(Alexander Calder in Saché, France)  
1961  
Vintage gelatin silver photo on baryta paper  
31 x 22 cm  
Ph. Agostino Osio  
© 2023, ProLitteris, Zurich



10.  
Arturo Martini  
*Violoncellista* (Cellist)  
c. 1931  
Fire clay  
32 x 25 x 5 cm



11.  
Cy Twombly  
*Interior Bassano in Teverina*  
1998  
Color dry-print  
58.7 x 44.1 x 4 cm



12.  
Cy Twombly  
*Interior Bassano in Teverina*  
1998  
Color dry-print  
58.7 x 44.1 x 4 cm



13.

Franco Vimercati

*Senza titolo* (Untitled)

1991

B/W gelatin silver photograph, vintage print by the  
artist

17 x 21.7 cm

