

PAULA SEEGY
GALLERY

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Via San Maurilio 14 – Milan

Maria Cristina Carlini.
Matter, Composition, Architecture

September 25 – November 8, 2025

From September 25 to November 8, 2025, the Gallery will host a significant exhibition dedicated to a rich selection of works by the artist Maria Cristina Carlini, one of the most respected figures in contemporary Italian sculpture. The show offers a journey into the complex creative universe of the artist, who for decades has been deeply exploring materiality, examining with each work the intricate relationship between art and nature.

The exhibition stands out for its expressive richness and the inclusion of several previously unseen works, offering a multifaceted exploration of Carlini's artistic language. The visual narrative unfolds through a complex interplay of forms and techniques, combining stoneware sculptures, collages, and large-scale mixed-media drawings. This composition creates an exhibition experience that fully illustrates the wide range of materials and aesthetic approaches the artist has employed throughout her career.

The show focuses on twenty selected works, created between 2002 and 2025, presenting a broad and varied narrative that reflects Carlini's ongoing growth and transformation. Maria Cristina Carlini appears as the guardian of a primary, unshakable impulse—a driving force and guiding thread throughout her creative life. Her statement, *"The need to create a work of art is an impulse I cannot ignore,"* serves as a manifesto, a declaration of identity and vocation. It goes beyond a simple act of expression, revealing an existential necessity.

In this declaration, we see her deep awareness of the intrinsic nature of her art: it is not a choice, nor a fleeting response to inspiration, but an imperative that comes from within—a persistent desire to give form and substance to what she feels and thinks.

It is as if the function of the artwork in her practice is an essential, undeniable need—a way for the artist to engage with the world and with herself. This impulse leaves no room for hesitation or compromise: it is a force that demands to be heard and followed without ambiguity.

But what does this need to create mean at its deepest level? For Maria Cristina Carlini, it is an act of pure authenticity, a gesture that emerges from the soul and takes shape in form and presence. Her work is fueled by an irresistible desire to question material, to deconstruct and recombine, to analyze and reinterpret forms that capture not only the eye but also the mind.

Her art thus becomes a bridge between the essence of desire and tangible reality—a way to explore the inner self and communicate it to the world through the universal language of art. From this perspective, her artistic practice takes on the character of an act of resistance: against complacency, against the speed of consensus, against the passivity of the distracted gaze.

This unwavering conviction manifests in her work as a force that is both disruptive and profoundly authentic, capable of giving her sculptures a fragment of eternity, a reflection of the deepest truths of human existence.

Biographical Notes. Sculptor Maria Cristina Carlini, who lives and works in Milan, began her artistic journey working with ceramics in the early 1970s in Palo Alto, California. Over time, she expanded her practice to include a variety of materials, such as stoneware, iron, corten steel, and reclaimed wood. She has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows at both public and private venues, nationally and internationally, earning awards and honors along the way. Her monumental sculptures are permanently displayed across three continents: Europe, America, and Asia.

In January 2025, she officially opened the Maria Cristina Carlini Foundation ETS to the public, an institution dedicated to preserving and promoting the vast artistic and documentary heritage she has created over more than fifty years of activity.

Her artistic career has been widely documented in numerous publications, and important critics have written about her work, including Paolo Campiglio, Luciano Caramel, Claudio Cerritelli, Vittoria Coen, Guo Xiao Chuan, Martina Corgnati, Gillo Dorfles, Carlo Franza, Maria Fratelli, Matteo Galbiati, Chiara Gatti, Flaminio Gualdoni, Yacouba Konaté, Frédérique Malaval, Laurence Pauliac, Elena Pontiggia, and Cortney Stell.

Title: **Maria Cristina Carlini. Materials, Composition, Architecture**

Venue: Paula Seegy Gallery, Via San Maurilio 14 – 20123 Milan

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Opening: Thursday, September 25, at 6:00 PM

Admission Free

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