

PAULA SEEGY
GALLERY

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Via San Maurizio, 14 – Milano

**Five artists for five materials: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera,
De Marchi, Ōki**

curated by Luigi Sansone

5 February 2026 – 19 March 2026
opening Thursday 5 February, 6pm

From 5 February to 19 March 2026, the **Paula Seegy Gallery** presents “**Five Artists for Five Materials: Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki**”, an exhibition conceived as a comprehensive investigation into the expressive possibilities of matter and the capacity of contemporary artistic practice to construct a global experience. Starting from the idea of the *Gesamtkunstwerk*—understood not as a mere superimposition of disciplines but as a project of sensory and perceptual synthesis—the exhibition offers a reflection on how different materials, worked according to individual poetics, can weave a unified discourse of forms, surfaces, and spatial relationships. The main materials — wood, copper, iron, steel, glass — are representative of each artist's research and explore their intrinsic qualities: **Gabriella Benedini** explores wood in its organic dimension and tactile memory; **Pietro Coletta** investigates copper as a surface of transformation, oxidation and light; **Salvatore Cuschera** contrasts the hardness of iron with formal tensions of balance and rupture; **Riccardo De Marchi** uses steel as a testing ground for geometries, resistances and reflections; **Oki Izumi** uses glass to open thresholds between visibility and transparency, between fragility and monumentality. Here, matter becomes a critical device: not a constraint, but an operational program that stimulates technical and conceptual variation within a coherent exhibition structure.

The exhibition layout, designed as a thematic sequence, encourages encounters and dissonances between works: carefully calibrated combinations create tonal resonances between surfaces and volumes, allowing visitors to interpret the formal choices in the light of a cross-cutting dialogue between practices. The curators aim to highlight not only the aesthetic qualities of each work of art, but also the historical and cultural implications of the material — from the identity value of wood in the applied arts to the symbolic significance of metal in the industrial age and the ambivalence of glass in modernity. In this sense, the exhibition becomes a tool for knowledge that questions materiality as a language. The inclusion of the initiative in the **in vetrina** programme promoted by **Milano MuseoCity** amplifies the public vocation of the project, placing it within a network of practices that dialogue with the urban fabric and with the external use of exhibition spaces. The presence of a work by **Giacomo Benevelli**, a reference point for Italian abstract sculpture in the second half of the 20th century, introduces a further level of investigation: the comparison between contemporary research and this historical reference generates a temporal gap that highlights both the continuities and discontinuities in the relationship between form and material.

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On a theoretical level, the exhibition can be interpreted as a contemporary rethinking of the concept of the total work of art: rather than incorporating all the arts into a single composition, the exhibition proposes a fragmentary totality, achieved through the dialogue between materials and procedures. It is a totality constructed through affinity and contrast, through ecosystems of objects that maintain their autonomy but are arranged according to a common exhibition grammar. The result is an experience that stimulates the intellect: the public is invited to explore, compare and reconnect meanings, perceptions and material memories.

Title Five artists for five materials : Benedini, Coletta, Cuschera, De Marchi, Ōki

Curated by Luigi Sansone

Venue Paula Seegy Gallery, via San Maurizio 14 - Milano

Dates 5 febbraio 2026 – 19 marzo 2026

Vernissage Thursday 5 february, 6pm

Opening hours Tuesday to Saturday 12pm–7pm

Free Admission

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