

PAOLO ICARO

Dribbling

Opening November 18th, 2021 h.18.00 Galleria Lia Rumma | Via Vannella Gaetani 12 | NAPOLI

Gallery hours: 11.00- 13.30 / 15.00- 19:00

Lia Rumma Gallery in Naples presents, on November 18th 2021, Paolo Icaro's exhibition entitled *Dribbling*.

Paolo Icaro (Turin 1936, lives and works in Tavullia, in the Province of Pesaro) is one of the protagonists of 1970s artistic research, the Arte Povera movement, and has always experimented with the action of sculpting in relation to form and space. "Space in sculpture," he states, "is the same space in which my body is, and I'm also in the same space as the sculpture. Sculpture is therefore body, the body of the idea which creates vulnerable gravity, just like any other body in the universe."

Dribbling presents a number of historic works from the 1970s, set up in the gallery in such a way as to create between the works and the space that houses them an oscillation in time and experience, a "dribbling" through existence. "The nucleus of the pieces I've selected," Icaro states, "make the visitor the protagonist, as opposed to the objects themselves. I chose these works on account of time, the time that divides 1968 from us today, but also because in 1968 I was in Amalfi, and it was there that, through her husband Marcello Rumma, my history with Lia Rumma began." Paolo Icaro who was present at the exposition *Arte Povera + Povere Azioni* (promoted and organized by Marcello Rumma at the Arsenali di Amalfi and curated by Germano Celant in October of '68) is now putting "in play" an exhibition with a series of works, originally from Amalfi, at the Galleria Lia Rumma. The materials constantly offer a way of doing things, while at the same time foreshadowing their undoing in order to redo and (as theorized by the artist) ultimately see the continuous interpretive process.

Among the works in the exhibition: *Cuborto* (1968) which is nothing more than a steel cube and rope which admits inherent error; *Buchi 1,000,000+1* (1968) which is a giant cloth, pierced and perforated in different ways that call for participatory action; *Cumulo rete* (1968), an iron chain going through a polythene tube that changes form depending on where it is installed; and *Spazio con anima* (1967-2021), a new installation created for the exhibit, consisting of three elements created in different times—a small spatial box made of wood and rope from '67, a larger reconstruction of the same box on a 1-to-1 scale defining a livable space, large enough for a human, and a projection of a moving female body inside the space of this box/cage (performance by Ekaterina Shushtakova, Tanztheater Pina Bausch). A sort of *mise en abyme* between the object, the scaled-up reproduction and its livableness, reproduced in video.

Paolo Icaro was born in Turin on September 30th, 1936. He lives and works in Tavullia.

He studied piano and went to school at the Liceo Massimo d'Azeglio, where he received his first teachings on art history from Riccardo Chicco and Francesco Arcangeli. He enrolled in the department of literature at the University of Turin. In 1958, Umberto Mastroianni welcomed him into his studio. He was passionate about the language of sculpture, and so his master gave him the name Icaro (Icarus). In 1960, he moved to Rome. Within two years he had his first exhibition at the Galleria Schneider. In 1965, he was invited to Rome's IX Quadriennale. In 1966 he moved to New York. In 1967, he had an exhibition at the Galleria La Tartaruga in Rome and participated in the exhibition "Arte Povera Im-Spazio" at the Galleria La Bertesca in Genova, the very city to which he'd move to in 1968. In the same year, he'd have an exhibition called "Faredisfarerifarevedere 0106768" at La Bertesca. In the years 1968-'69 he'd take part in the most important international avant-garde exhibits. He achieved works at the "Teatro delle mostre", Galleria La Tartaruga in Rome and at "Arte povera più azioni povere" in Amalfi. He was one of the artists invited to the two historic exhibits "Op Losse Schroeven. Situations en cryptostructuren", at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and at "When Attitudes Become Form", at the Kunsthalle, Berna. In 1971, he'd move to Connecticut, where he'd live for a decade.

At the beginning of the 1980s he returned to Italy, where he had his exhibition at the PAC-Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea in Milano. In 1995, the Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea of Trento housed an anthological exhibition of his work. Since 2000, there have been numerous exhibits in public spaces and museums. In 2006 he was at the exposition "Museo Museo: 1998-2006 Duecentocinquanta nuove opere per la GAM" at Torino Esposizioni, where are displayed several works acquired by the Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino in 2005; in 2007, he was invited to create a permanent piece for the Italian Department at UCLA – University of California, Los Angeles; in 2017, there was an exposition in the cloister of the Università Statale di Milano entitled "Un prato in quattro tempi"; the exhibition "C'era una volta..." at Città di Castello nella Pinacoteca Comunale; "Le pietre del Cielo: Paolo Icaro and Luigi Ghirri" at the Fondazione Querini Stampalia in Venezia, and in 2019 GAM - Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino displayed the "Paolo Icaro Anthology 1964-2019". In October of 2021, the Comune of Volterra won the award of the Italian Council IX del Ministero della Cultura, adding Paolo Icaro's "Polarità" to the permanent collection of the Pinacoteca di Volterra, hanging it in the cloister.

His works are found in some of the most important public international collections, including: Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, Gent, Belgium; Alvar Aalto Museo, Jyväskylä, Finland; Centre Pompidou, Parigi, France; GAM, Torino, Italy; GNAM, Roma, Italy; Collezione dei Musei Civici, Milano, Italy; MAMBO, Bologna, Italy; MAXXI, Roma, Italy; Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce, Genova, Italy; MUSMA, Matera, Italy; Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, Roma, Italy; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, USA; UCLA, Los Angeles, USA.

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