

CARDI GALLERY MILAN

VINCENZO AGNETTI. TEMPO E MEMORIA

24 May – 1° September 2023

“What I did, thought and heard, I’ve now forgotten by heart: this is the first authentic document.”
Vincenzo Agnetti

Cardi Gallery is proud to present *Vincenzo Agnetti / Tempo e Memoria* (Time and Memory), an exhibition dedicated to Italian conceptual artist, poet and essayist Vincenzo Agnetti (1926-1981). Taking place simultaneously across Cardi’s two galleries in London and Milan, *Vincenzo Agnetti / Tempo e Memoria* explores the artist’s unique and poetic reflections on language, time and memory through a comprehensive selection of works dating from 1969 to 1975.

A central figure in the Italian Conceptual Art movement of the early 1960s, Agnetti first gained renown as a writer and theorist in the Milanese avant-garde alongside Enrico Castellani and Piero Manzoni, whose journal *Azimuth* voiced the ideals and aspirations of a new generation. In 1962, the artist left Italy for Argentina, where he entered a self-proclaimed period of “no-art”, a critical prelude to his later creative endeavours. Across a short yet remarkably prolific and influential career – from 1967 until his premature death in 1981 – Agnetti engaged with the cultural and philosophical debates of his time, channelling post-war preoccupations with media, history and the written word into a deeply personal artistic vision. Although keenly aware of the limits and contradictions of language, Agnetti relied on words as both artistic tool and medium, constantly dissolving and reconfiguring their potential to generate meaning.

Cardi Gallery confirms its vocation to rediscover and valorise the great Italian masters by linking them to a topical context. This is why it has chosen to present a series of important works from the first half of the 1970s linked to the theme of time, history and memory, a constant in Agnetti's work that finds an unprecedented and absolutely original synthesis in his 'Libro dimenticato a memoria' (Forgotten Book by Memory), in which in homage to the contradictory and paradoxical, what we forget is not lost but becomes part of us and our actions.

In both galleries, the works on felt, axioms and sundials on display that deal with time and forgetting by heart offer an important overview of Agnetti's work on this theme, complemented by some rarely seen works: in Milan, *Il Trono*, a four-handed work with Scheggi, first exhibited at the Mana Art Gallery in Rome in 1970, and *Eventi Precipitano*, first presented in 1975 at the Sonnabend Gallery in Paris, in London, *Elisabetta di Inghilterra* in the static theatre installation, as Agnetti conceived it. The exhibition will be open to the public from 24 May to 1 September

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INFO:
Da lunedì a venerdì dalle 09:30 alle 18:30
Sabato dalle 11:00 alle 18:00

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