

ITALY

According To Nature

The solo exhibition entitled *Maria Cristina Carlini. Making according to nature* will be held in the halls and surrounding park of the Royal Castle of Govone, a Piedmontese Savoy residence in the Roero and one of UNESCO-declared world heritage sites, from September 9 to November 3, 2013.

The exhibition highlights Maria Cristina Carlini's close aesthetic link with nature and its elements as a rich source of inspiration. The works on display express the poetics of Carlini through forms that refer to the primordial matter and its evolution and transformation into works of art.

Sandstone, Corten steel, resin, reclaimed wood, sheet-metal, and iron are the materials that Carlini prefers.

In the park stand out, among others, the two newly made works: *Vento (Wind)*, a fan almost 4.5 meter-high, and *Samurai* (3.5 x 5 x 3 m), both made primarily with reclaimed wood and Corten steel. Solemn and robust, they are in perfect harmony with the natural world, together with *Legni (Woods)* and *Cerchi (Circles)* (both 2012), creating an intimate dialogue.

Chernobyl, an installation of stylized iron trees over three meters-high, denounces the damage inflicted by man to nature, remembering at the same time the importance of environmental values.

In the indoor rooms there are several sculptures made of stoneware, through which she gives shape to most of her works. Carlini's is a patient work where matter intertwines with the rituals of water, earth, and fire, referring to the "thought," to the re-working of ideas that evolve until eventually being translated into artworks.

Her *Crateri/Craters* (15 to 35 cm in diameter), made of



Maria Cristina Carlini, *Samurai*, 2013, found wood, Corten steel, 350 x 500 x 300 cm.



Above: Maria Cristina Carlini, *Stracci*, 2006, stoneware fabric with iron seams, 180 x 230 x 170 cm.

Left: Maria Cristina Carlini, *Vento*, 2013, reclaimed wood, Corten steel, 430 x 300 x 100 cm. Images: Courtesy of the Artist.



stoneware and lava with colored enamels, evoke ancestral memories and form a point of contact between the past, the present, and the future.

Of strong impact are works such as *Verso l'Infinito (Towards Infinity)*, an enigmatic staircase wrapped up between soft curves of Corten steel whose end point is unknown; *Stracci (Rags)*, scraps of stoneware fabric with iron seams, hanging from structures that rest upon a carpet of dark earth; and *Note (Notes)*, prisms of sheet-metal hanging in the air, which refer to the reading of an invisible stave.

The exhibition is accompanied by a book published by Skira, edited and with a critical essay by Martina Corgnati.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Piedmont Region, the Province of Cuneo, and the Municipality of Govone. The graphic design of the exhibition is by Stefania Cravanzola.

Maria Cristina Carlini began working with ceramics in the early 1970s in Palo Alto, California, and then expressed herself with the use of different materials such as stoneware, iron, Corten steel, wood, and resin for the realization of models and sculptures, sometimes of monumental scale.

Carlini has had many solo and group exhibitions in numerous international private and public venues. In Asia, one of her monumental works is permanently installed in front of the Italian Embassy in Beijing. A solo exhibition of the artist was held in the Forbidden City in 2008. In Shanghai, two of her monumental works were presented in conjunction with the 2010 *World Expo*.

For visitor information to the Royal Castle of Govone, Roero (Cuneo), please contact City Tourist Office of the Municipality of Govone 0173 58103. E-mail: info@stefaniacravanzola.com.

Entrance to the Castle Park is free; general admittance into the castle is 3 Euro.

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