
PRESS RELEASE · ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Michelangelo Pistoletto

at the Real Academia de España

Real Academia de España en Roma · 19 January 2024 · Curated by Raffaele Quattrone

English translation of the original Italian press release issued for the exhibition. Prepared for raffaelequattrone.com.

As part of the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of its foundation, the Real Academia de España en Roma is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition Michelangelo Pistoletto at the Real Academia de España on Friday, 19 January 2024, at 7:30 pm, in the presence of the artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, the Ambassador of Spain to Italy Miguel Fernández-Palacios, the Spanish Secretary of State for Housing and Urban Agenda David Lucas Parrón, the Director of the Academy Ángeles Albert, and curator Raffaele Quattrone.

The exhibition continues a journey that began on 9 October 2023, when Michelangelo Pistoletto installed Pozzo Specchio inside Bramante's Tempietto, affirming the inclusive power of art and inviting us not to feel excluded from society, its culture, its art or its history, but rather to see ourselves as active participants in this process.

This journey now continues and reaches its culmination with the iconic Venere degli stracci (Venus of the Rags), a Venus immersed in a mountain of rags, bearing witness to the regenerative power of art, which transforms rags and waste by elevating them into a work of art; and with Tavolo del Mediterraneo (Mediterranean Table), a large mirrored table shaped like the Mediterranean basin and surrounded by chairs, each originating from one of the countries bordering this sea, demonstrating how art can contribute to overcoming social differences.

Michelangelo Pistoletto's art is, indeed, an art of relation, participation and sharing, as well as a search for identity. It is an ever-evolving inquiry that, from the very beginning, has sought to overcome the separation between artwork and viewer, between art and life.

Sharing these same values, the Real Academia de España en Roma chose to dedicate a section of its anniversary programme to Michelangelo Pistoletto, a global ambassador for an artistic practice centred on participation and responsibility. It is an art based on limiting the Ego and enhancing and promoting the We, overturning the ideology of multiplication — of capital — into an ideology of sharing.

The three works presented in the exhibition lead us into this extraordinary artistic project, inviting us to participate in what is happening in the world and in what is happening to those around us; to recognise what characterises us and distinguishes us from others, while at the same time embracing the desire to build a future together.

MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO

Michelangelo Pistoletto was born in Biella in 1933 and focused his early painting practice on the study of self-portraiture. Between 1961 and 1962, he created his first Mirror Paintings, which directly incorporate the viewer into the work and reopen the debate on perspective by overturning the Renaissance model.

Between 1965 and 1966, he produced a group of works entitled Oggetti in meno (Minus Objects), considered fundamental to the emergence of Arte Povera. From 1967 onwards, he developed actions outside traditional exhibition spaces, representing the first manifestations of the “creative collaboration” that Pistoletto would expand over the following years by bringing together people and increasingly broad sectors of society.

During the 1990s, he founded Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto and the University of Ideas, establishing an active relationship between art and different areas of the social fabric with the aim of inspiring and producing a responsible transformation of society.

In December 2022, he published his latest book, *La formula della creazione* (The Formula of Creation), in which he retraces the fundamental stages and evolution of his entire artistic journey and theoretical reflection.

ORIGINAL PRESS RELEASE

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