

**BERGAMO GAMEc  
HOSTS A GREAT EXHIBITION ON THE DEPTHS OF MATTER**

**BLACK HOLE  
ART AND MATERIALITY FROM INFORMAL TO INVISIBLE**

4 October 2018 – 6 January 2019

Opening 4 October 2018, 7 p.m.

From 4 October 2018 to 6 January 2019, Bergamo's **GAMEc – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea** presents the exhibition *Black Hole. Art and Materiality from Informal to Invisible*, the **first exhibition in an ambitious three-year research programme dedicated to the theme of matter, conceived by Lorenzo Giusti**, developed with GAMEc curator **Sara Fumagalli**, and with the scientific input of the physician **Diederik Sybolt Wiersma** and the collaboration of **BergamoScienza**.

Activating a **dialogue with the history of scientific and technological discoveries, as well as exploring the development of aesthetics theories**, *Black Hole* showcases the work of those artists who have explored the material element's most intrinsic significance, where the actual concept of "matter" shatters to open up a profounder idea of "**matter**" as **an original element, as the primordial substance that constitutes everything**.

In particular, the exhibition intends to narrate this dimension in **three different perspectives**: the first, of those who looked to the tangible, material element as a primary entity, preceding or alternative to form; second, of those who interpreted human nature as part of a broader material discourse; thirdly, of those who embarked on the penetration of matter, pushing the boundaries of materiality itself, grasping its infinitesimal and energetic dimension.

Relying on an **extensive selection of artworks produced from the end of the nineteenth century to the present day**, the exhibition aims to provide a **single and integrated overview of this precious dialectic that shifts from the materiality of the Informal to**

**that of the Invisible**, extremes that are only superficially antithetic but in reality coexist and complement each other.

### Section 1 – *Informal*

Scientific developments – from Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle to quantum methodology – have entered the public domain and become familiar to us, profoundly influencing artistic vision, to the point of conditioning not only the perception of things and the world, but also the profoundest substance of artistic work.

The works present in the first section interact with the development of these discoveries, and hence shun any intent to represent the world, using traditional and unusual materials not as elements to be shaped and thereby create new forms, but by virtue of their intrinsic value, of their standing as “elements in themselves”. Material configurations whose indeterminacy transmits an idea of reality as a constantly changing substance.

The origins of this research come from **Jean Fautrier** and his concretions of stratified colour, as well as **Lucio Fontana**, who cut into matter in his *Nature*, penetrating and ripping it to the point that it became an animated opus.

This line of research is pursued by **Antoni Tàpies** – among others – with his lumpy surfaces woven with tears and rips; by **Alberto Burri** in the tarry density of his *Combustioni*, and in his *Cretti*; in the early works of **Piero Manzoni**; and, decades later, by **Urs Fischer**’s formless *Big Clay* pieces; **Cameron Jamie**’s “oozing” statues; **Ryan Sullivan**’s ethereal dripping, chapped abstractions.

### Section 2 – *Humankind-Matter*

The works of the artists present in the second section of the exhibition transmit the message that matter permeating the Universe and the element creating and composing all things also defines human nature.

This section evolves in an articulated, transversal path, with the **artworks of different generations of artists installed side by side, sharing a strong material component but also a variously manifest presence of an anthropomorphic element**. Works in which the human body is then primarily a “material body”, and the human figure hinted at or in decomposition becomes the vehicle for an integrated world vision, held together by the very theory of matter.

**Auguste Rodin** and **Medardo Rosso**’s plastic fusion, with images of faces and bodies emerging from indistinct bodies constitutes a significant historical precedent in the research undertaken by a series of artists who, in different forms, converged the debate on matter and exploration of the person in a single creative vision. **Alberto Giacometti** is one example, with his “trapped” figures, which Jean-Paul Sartre defined as always halfway between being and not being; another is Swiss sculptor **Hans Josephsohn** with his monolithic heads imprisoned in blocks of compact matter.

Purely pictorial face and matter return in **Enrico Baj**’s first informal paintings, in **Jean Dubuffet**’s early 1950s *Dames*, as well as in the works of **Karel Appel** and **Asger Jorn**, venerable members of the Co.Br.A. group, who used bright colours, fierce brushstrokes and distorted human figures, inspired by primitive art.

These masters of modernity were later flanked by the works by contemporary artists of international renown, first and foremost **William Tucker**, with his agglomerations of matter midway between rock and human body, and **Florence Peake**, whose informal sculptures were the outcome of collective performances in which body and matter seem to seek a dynamic fusion.

### Section 3 – Invisible

Unlike those of the first two sections, testifying to a physical relationship with matter – slashed, coated, scratched, burnt, oozed, but “in itself” matter nonetheless – the works in the third section look to **more hidden aspects of matter**, invisible to our eyes, conversing with the atomistic and subatomic dimension.

**Jean Dubuffet**'s famous *Texturologies* were a starting point for an evolving debate that developed broadly in contemporary languages. These close-up, microscopic visions of a generic “material element” express a visual notion of incessant inner flurry and as research are echoed in **Tancredi Parmeggiani** or in the compositions of artists close to the Movimento Arte Nucleare – founded in 1951 by **Enrico Baj** and **Sergio Dangelo**, joined a year later by **Joe Colombo** – who rework in visual form the emotions aroused by the explosion of the atom bomb at the end of the Second World War.

From the second post-war period to contemporary times, artists have created new images of what scientific theories suggest, but what words and illustrations cannot describe. The classic notion of “matter”, applicable from the familiar level of visible objects up to molecular and atomic contexts, fades to subatomic levels, embracing the concept of energy.

Thus, artist **Jol Thomson** – working closely with Italy's Gran Sasso National Laboratories, one of the world's most important research institutes in the study of neutrinos – creates a dialogue between science and art by investigating the territories of the material unknown, of the intangible and of the non-optical. This was a line of research that also inspired **Hicham Berrada**'s performances, which invite the spectator to a direct experience of the energies and forces emerging from matter, and **Thomas Ruff**'s *Photograms* of abstract compositions that arise from the awareness of the existence of a microscopic universe as well as the tangible dimension of things.

In their diversity of approaches, the works of the artists presented in this section testify to the same urgency in questioning the **philosophical, perceptive and cognitive implications of contemporary revolutionary scientific discoveries**.

### MERU ART\*SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM

The exhibition will avail itself of the contribution offered by Fondazione Meru – Medolago Ruggeri for biomedical research, which has already put in place a new research project – *Meru Art\*Science Research Program* – in the context of *Trilogy of Matter* and as part of the BergamoScienza festival, with the aim of creating site-specific actions dedicated to the art-science relationship.

The programme is coordinated by Anna Daneri, with Alessandro Bettonagli and Lorenzo Giusti, and for the first time sees the participation of artists **Evelina Domnitch & Dmitry Gelfand** who have designed an environmental installation capable of offering a visual perspective of the interaction between two black holes through a time-space wormhole, namely where the matter of the Universe implodes in order to regenerate itself.

### CATALOGUE

The exhibition **catalogue** – published by **GAMEC Books** – will propose a series of **texts of a scientific nature** written by **Gianfranco Bertone, Giulio Peruzzi and Diederik Sybolt Wiersma**, mapping out the conceptual horizon of this first appointment in the *Trilogy of Matter*, flanked by essays by **Lorenzo Giusti** and **Sara Fumagalli**, as well as articles by **international critics and art historians** – **Alex Bacon, Mathieu Copeland, Anna Daneri, Heike Eipeldauer, Eva Fabbris, Chiara Gatti, Elio Grazioli, Luigia Lonardelli, Giorgio Mastinu, Fabiola Naldi, Alessandra Pioselli, Kari Rittenbach** – called upon to provide a deeper analysis of the exhibited works.

## SIDE EVENTS

The exhibition will be accompanied by an intense programme of side events, which will engage different types of audiences via targeted actions.

From October, GAMeC's Spazio ParolaImmagine will host a series of **conferences** dedicated to the founding themes of the exhibition and will bring to the table leading figures from scientific and artistic scenarios.

A new cycle of **Public Program** is also planned, with its platform of meetings open to the public and the result of a joint venture between Bergamo's GAMeC and the Accademia di Belle Arti G. Carrara. After trying out the "artist talk" format for the *Black Hole. Art and Materiality from Informal to Invisible* exhibition, the project will become interdisciplinary to reflect an across-the-board approach to the theme of matter and the relationship between science and the visual arts.

There will also be numerous **activities promoted by the Educational Department** during the exhibition, including specific narratives designed for schools of all age groups and types, exploratory visits for faculty, workshops for adults, children and families, guided tours and special events!

## EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Karel Appel, Hicham Berrada, Alberto Burri, Christo, Gino De Dominicis, Evelina Domnitch & Dmitry Gelfand, Jean Dubuffet, Simone Fattal, Jean Fautrier, Urs Fischer, Lucio Fontana, Alberto Giacometti, Lydia Gifford, Cameron Jamie, Asger Jorn, Hans Josephsohn, Anish Kapoor, Anselm Kiefer, Leoncillo Leonardi, Piero Manzoni, Nicola Martini, Luca Monterastelli, Movimento Arte Nucleare (Enrico Baj, Joe Colombo, Sergio Dangelo), Gastone Novelli, Tancredi Parmeggiani, Florence Peake, Carol Rama, Milton Resnick, Auguste Rodin, Medardo Rosso, Thomas Ruff, Ryan Sullivan, Antoni Tàpies, Jol Thomson, William Tucker.

## **INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

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