

Media Release: 19 February 2008

Based on Paper The Marzona Collection

Exhibition: 29 February - 11 May 2008

Press View: Friday 29 February 2008, by arrangement

Carl Andre, Giovanni Anselmo, Robert Barry, Bill Bollinger, Stanley Brouwn, Walter De Maria, Jan Dibbets, Hamish Fulton, Gilbert & George, Michael Heizer, Douglas Huebler, On Kawara, Joseph Kosuth, Jannis Kounellis, Gary Kuehn, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long, Gordon Matta-Clark, Mario Merz, Robert Morris, Bruce Nauman, Blinky Palermo, Giulio Paolini, Mel Ramsden (Art & Language) Ulrich Rückriem, Ed Ruscha, Robert Smithson and Lawrence Weiner.

Based on Paper - The Marzona Collection is a comprehensive selection of western avant-garde art from the 1960s and early 1970s. The exhibition title refers to the artistic concept and its first realisation often on paper whereby the artist lays down the idea, the plan. With over 70 works including drawing, collage, video works and sculpture, our intention is to explore the idea of art on paper as a base for all the arts.

The 1960s and 1970s hold a key historical significance for critics and art historians. This is due to the fact that artists began to produce works that rejected certain artistic techniques. They questioned the large decorative canvases of Abstract Expressionism and launched a debate on the institutional and social conditions of art. The museum, the gallery, the dealer, the critic, and the audience were all challenged, resulting in a radical re-evaluation of artistic practice and forms of display.

The works are often illustrative or models for nearly impossible projects, for example: Carl Andre's precise drawing on graph paper *Untitled*, 1960 outlining the plans for a sculpture made up of eight cubic forms or Bruce Nauman's drawing *Concrete chamber with video + audio deep in earth or deep in space*, 1972, depicting a chamber sunk deep in the earth. The style could also be akin to documentary such as On Kawara's *I Got Up At . . .*, 1973 bringing together a series of postcards sent to friends detailing the time he got up in the morning; the exhibited object serving as testimony that the art had occurred. Each example is an attempt to discover, perhaps even impose order and structure on the world.

There is no doubt that the artists in this exhibition were at the epicentre of a fundamental shift that continues to shape the present. They embraced experimentation, flexibility and economy of means to re-examine art. Although these objects were intended to be read as reductive, serial and impersonal, they now appear homogenised and quaint in their existence.

Exhibition Catalogue

A full colour, bilingual catalogue published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walter König, Köln accompanies the exhibition. Featuring works from the exhibition and essays by Peter-Klaus Schuster, Hein-Th. Schulze Altcappenberg, Andreas Schalthorn and Michael Lailach. For sale at mima. Special exhibition price £25

Organised in partnership with the Kupferstichkabinett – Museum of Prints & Drawings, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. In further co-operation with the Kunstbibliothek and the Nationalgalerie SMB

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

ALSO SHOWING

29 February - 11 May 2008

Locations & Situations: The 20th Century Landscape

An exhibition drawn from mima's permanent collection, presenting a century of British art. Includes works by David Bomberg, Joseph Herman, Ivon Hitchens, Leon Kossoff, Hughie O'Donoghue, Christopher Wood and Keith Vaughan.

29 February - 11 May 2008

Champagne Diamond/The Brilliant Light

Presented in mima sound space, this sound-work is written, assembled and recorded by artists Nina Canell & Robin Watkins.

28 February - 8 March

Resonance FM at mima

On air 24 hours on 87.7fm

The UK's only art radio station is relocating to mima for AV Festival 08.

About mima

mima is a new gallery of modern and contemporary art designed by Erick van Egeraat Associated Architects. The gallery brings together the town's art collections for the first time and hosts temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to now. Featuring the work of internationally acclaimed artists, the programme includes painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery, design, sound, film, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Exhibitions will change every quarter.

Opening times

Tues - Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sun 12noon - 4.00pm

Closed Monday

Open Bank Holidays (Sunday opening hours apply)

Admission FREE

mima

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