

PAOLO CANEVARI

Galleria Christian Stein - Corso Monforte 23, Milano

Opening October 29, 2025 6 - 9pm

November, 30 2025 - January 31, 2026

Christian Stein Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Paolo Canevari (Rome, 1963), one of the most incisive and provocative voices among the artists of his generation. Represented by the gallery since 2002, the artist shows a new exhibition at Corso Monforte 23 in Milan, bringing together unseen and earlier works that clearly reveal the depth of his artistic inquiry.

Canevari explores the relationship between historical identity and the present through a language that merges the rawness of discarded materials with a poetic and conceptual tension. Waste motor oil, rubber tires, and industrial residues are symbols of a world scarred by conflict and polluted by ideological and ecological crises. The choice of such materials - emblems of modernity and its utopian progress - reveals an urgent need for redemption from the decline of our time. The black of oil and rubber, a recurring element in Canevari's practice, goes beyond evoking a sense of crisis: in its absoluteness, it becomes a contemplative space.

The Roman artist focuses the reflection on the relationship between history and the present in the *Monuments of the Memory* series, begun in 2011. In this exhibition it is represented by the *Paesaggi [Landscapes]* and *Golden Works*. In this cycle, Canevari moves beyond figuration to explore the evocative power of absence. He sets in dialogue different materials and references - from wood to gold leaf, from altarpieces to symbols of capitalism - in order to question contemporary experience and trace its collective memory. In resonance with the figurative void of the *Golden Works* (2019), created with gold leaf on wooden panels, the *Paesaggi [Landscapes]* (2018–2022) pursue this investigation through blank sheets of paper, soaked in motor oil and presented in antique gold-leaf frames. Completing this nucleus is a huge *Paesaggio [Landscape]* (2025), unframed and covering an entire wall. Its monumental scale amplifies the fascination that pervades the whole series.

At the center of the gallery stands the emblematic *Sfera* (2005), created by layering tires over a wooden structure. Its perfectly geometric shape contrasts with the rough and imperfect texture of the material, a residue of mass consumption.

At first glance, the use of tires and motor oil might suggest a brutalist aesthetic. Yet this material severity is gently unsettled by poetic and classical elements, such as baroque frames or the sinuous lines that outline the landscapes. The result is a fragile yet evocative balance.

With this exhibition, Christian Stein Gallery reaffirms its commitment to supporting artists who redefine the language of contemporary art. In this context, Paolo Canevari's work offers a sharp view of our time, addressing urgent themes such as historical memory and the value of discarded materials in consumer societies.

Biography

Since his first solo exhibition in 1991, Paolo Canevari (Rome, 1963) has developed a language that transforms everyday objects into instruments of memory and reflection, experimenting with different media - from drawing to video, from performance to large installations.

Nel 2002, Canevari held his first solo show at Christian Stein Gallery in Milan, *Colosso*. He has participated in numerous international exhibitions: Liverpool Biennial (2004); Whitney Biennial (2006); Venice Biennial (2007). Solo exhibitions include: *Black Stone* (2005) and *ThANKS* (2009) at Christian Stein Gallery; *Nothing from Nothing* curated by Danilo Eccher at MACRO in Rome (2007); *Nobody Knows* curated by Germano Celant at Luigi Pecci Center in Prato (2010); *Decalogo* curated by Antonella Renzitti at the Calcografia in Rome (2008) and later, curated by Brett Littman, at The Drawing Center in New York (2011); *Monuments of the Memory* (2013) and a major retrospective in 2019 at the Stein Gallery; *Materia Oscura* (2020) curated by Marco Tonelli and Lorenzo Fiorucci at Palazzo Collicola in Spoleto; *Good year* (2024) at National Museums of Perugia.

Among his most significant projects: the installation of *Souvenir* (2015), a permanent work in Olnick Spanu Art Program space in Garrison (NY), accompanied by a publication with texts by Brett Littman and Robert Storr; participation in the group show *Challenging Beauty – Insights of Italian Contemporary Art* (2015) at Parkview Green Contemporary Art Museum in Beijing and at the Bangkok Biennial (2018) with *Monuments of the Memory, the Golden Room*.

His works have been presented in prestigious institutions such as Galleria Nazionale, MAXXI, and MACRO in Rome, MART in Rovereto, Museion in Bolzano, Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris, Drawing Center and MoMA in New York, IMMA in Dublin, and KW in Berlin.

Galleria Christian Stein | Corso Monforte 23 Milano
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