

Archivio Emilio Scanavino
presents

EMILIO SCANAVINO. LIGHT AND MATTER
Photographs from the 1960s

An exhibition dedicated to the photographs of one of the leading figures of the Informal generation and Spatialist movement

Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th March 2023
special opening from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

6th March-23rd April 2023
free entry by appointment

Archivio Scanavino
Piazza Aspromonte 17, Milan
www.archivioscanavino.it

*"I like taking photos. But I don't look for pretty pictures,
I like to walk around and portray the skeleton of nature,
certain holes, certain furrows that have been dug into the mountains over the centuries ..."*
Emilio Scanavino

Milan 20th February 2023. After officially opening last year in conjunction with the centenary of the artist's birth, the **Scanavino Archive** is welcoming people back into its spaces for an exhibition entitled **Emilio Scanavino. Light and Matter**, focusing on the artist's photographic work.

The exhibition will be held as part of Milano MuseoCity with **three extraordinary opening days, Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th March** from 10 am to 7 pm.

The exhibition will also be open **from 6th March-23rd April 2023** with free entry and visits by appointment (write to info@archivioscanavino.it).

Emilio Scanavino. Light and Matter presents a selection of photographs by **Emilio Scanavino** (1922-1986) taken in the 1960s: images featuring close-ups portraying details, traces and isolated fragments set against boundless, undefined backgrounds in an alphabetic sequence of subjects reiterated several times over with different shots.

A **painter** and **sculptor** of Genoese descent, **Scanavino** is considered one of the leading figures of the **Informal** generation and **Spatialist movement** that emerged in Italy at the end of the Second World War.

Scanavino's artistic experimentation sought to define a new alphabet, a new language composed of signs that were at once graphic and sculptural, physiological and tangible, organic and abstract.

This exhibition will reveal how, using his camera, the artist 'captured life' in the form of emotions, stories and revelations produced by light.

Emilio Scanavino was born in Genoa in 1922, where he soon devoted himself to painting after high school, holding his first solo exhibition of expressionist works in 1942. After initially focusing on figurative work, Scanavino's painting became increasingly closer to the distinctive features and traits of post-cubism, with a gradual synthesis of forms until they dissolved. After spending time in Milan, Paris and London, he worked with Tullio Mazzotti at his Manifattura ceramica in Albisola in 1950 together with Lucio Fontana, Sebastian Matta, Guillame Corneille, Asger Jorn, Wilfredo Lam, Gianni Dova, Roberto Crippa and Enrico Baj. In the same year, he exhibited at the 25th Venice Biennale and was awarded joint First Prize at the 5th Regional Exhibition in Genoa. Over the following years, he moved closer to the Milanese group of Spatialists, exhibiting Fontana's first Spatial Setting at Galleria del Naviglio in Venice. In 1954, he once again exhibited at the Venice Biennale. He also took part in 1958 winning the Prampolini Prize, in 1960 with his own personal room and yet again in 1966, when he won the Pininfarina Prize.

He continued his international exhibition work over the coming years, taking part in various exhibitions in London, Paris, Milan, Tokyo, Mexico City etc.

After being invited to the 11th São Paulo Biennial in Brazil in 1971, together with the sculptor Alik Cavaliere, he created a large work dedicated to martyrs for freedom, but it was not exhibited following the intervention of the consular authorities, who censured it due to its subject matter being 'political in nature and therefore non-artistic'. The work is now exhibited at the Museo della Permanente in Milan. In 1973, the Kunsthalle in Darmstadt presented a large anthological exhibition of his work, which was subsequently shown in Venice at Palazzo Grassi and then in Milan at Palazzo Reale in 1974. In 1975 he took part in the 10th Quadriennale in Rome and the following year began his working partnership with Giorgio Marconi in Milan. He alternated working in Italy and Paris, where he was forced to leave for health reasons at the end of the 1970s. He lived and worked in both Milan and Calice Ligure until passing away in 1986.

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