



ASSOCIAZIONE
GENESI

Press release, Milan, December 2, 2025

Associazione Genesi
presents

**FABIO MAURI
DE OPPRESSIONE**

Exhibition curated by Ilaria Bernardi

Triennale Milano

December 3, 2025 – February 15, 2026

**Exhibition produced by Associazione Genesi
in collaboration with**

**Studio Fabio Mauri – Associazione per l'Arte L'Esperimento del Mondo
on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the artist's birth**

**Press conference: December 2, 11:00 am
Opening: December 2, 6-9 pm**

Associazione Genesi dedicates an exhibition to the theme of oppression in the work of Fabio Mauri (Rome, 1926 – 2009), a leading figure in the post-Second World War Italian avant-garde. This will mark the beginning of the celebrations for the centennial of the artist's birth, which will begin in 2026 and include several events, among which major travelling retrospective exhibitions, as well as the publication of a general catalogue of works. The exhibition will be held in Milan, where the artist lived for a very long time, and a city he was very fond of.

Mauri was an artist who was capable of questioning like few others the “short century” in its contradictions, between memory, ideology, and the power of images. His work, which ranged from painting to drawing, from sculpture to performance, from the installation to writing, is marked by a constant tension between the individual and collective dimensions, between symbol and document, between ethics and historical determinism. As early as the 1950s, Mauri perceived the power and ambiguity of the screen, conceiving it to be a threshold and a filter, a neutral surface and at the same time a device of protection and manipulation, the emblem of a society that was gradually being defined a “society of the spectacle” and that today, thanks to computers and social media, has become truly a “society of the screen.” From the late 1960s Mauri also foreshadowed the theme, one that is relevant to the current times, of the body as a place of memory and critical reflection on oppression, on ideologies, and the possibility of transmitting collective traumatic experiences. Mauri had numerous solo shows in major exhibition venues both in Italy and abroad, as well as participating in some of the most important international events, from the Venice Biennale (1974, 1978, 1993, 2003, 2013, 2015) to DOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel (2012).



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The mission of **Associazione Genesi**, founded in 2020 by its President **Letizia Moratti**, is to educate people about human rights through contemporary art. After showing, from 2021 to 2024, the works in its own collection (Collezione Genesi) that are linked to relevant and current social and environmental issues, **in 2025 it expanded its offer, making way for a series of events dedicated to major artists who have by now become historicized**, whose works are not as yet present in its Collection; artists whose life and/or work can be interpreted *ex-post* as anticipating social themes that have become critical today. The first event in this project was the monographic show of the works of Louise Nevelson (Kiev, 1899 - New York, 1988) held at Palazzo Fava in Bologna in the summer of 2025; the second one was **the exhibition of Mauri's work in Milan, at the Triennale, curated by Ilaria Bernardi, and realized in collaboration with the Studio Fabio Mauri – Associazione per l'Arte L'Esperimento del Mondo.**

Mauri deserves credit for having foreshadowed, from the late 1960s, the dramatic theme of oppression in its potential typological, chronological, and geographical expressions. This is the reason why **the exhibition at the Triennale Milano will focus on a group of iconic works that the artist made between the late 1960s and the 2000s. These works are capable of casting light on the extreme relevance of the artist's output via the central role of the theme of oppression, especially in its expressions linked to culture, identity, and ideology, exploring how in history and in various geographical contexts these three concepts have become reasons for oppression.**

The historic works on display will include the installation *Amore mio* (1970) on the theme of death, never again exhibited in Italy after its presentation at the eponymous exhibition held in Montepulciano the same year it was made, *Manipolazione di Cultura* (1974) and *Europa bombardata* (1978), which, from their respective titles, already reveal the type of underlying oppression; *I numeri malefici* (1978) presented at the Venice Biennale in 1978 and now in the permanent collection of the Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, in which the artist shows how an error in calculation and judgment can serve as material for the interpretation of humans and history.

The works made by the artist in the following decades and that are also on display include *Ricostruzione della memoria a percezione spenta* (1988), *Cina ASIA Nuova* (1996), and *Rebibbia* (2007) exemplifying the artist's sensibility in perceiving and interpreting every type of abuse, even of the most individual and personal kind, as a part of history.

The exhibition will also feature guided tours, workshops, and educational encounters co-organized by Genesi together with its own patrons, including Università Cattolica, FAI, Gariwo – the Gardens of the Righteous, and the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation Italia. These activities, conceived for a public of all ages, offer tools that can be used to read not only Mauri's poetics, but the universal themes dealt with as well, confirming the association's goal to combine art, critical reflection, and collective participation.

The first appointment of the public program will be held on Wednesday, December 10, at 6 pm, with keynote speaker Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, President of the Advisory Committee of the Studio Fabio Mauri and curator of the general catalogue, published by Allemandi and Hatje Cantz. The catalogue will be presented for the first time on this occasion.

The hard-copy publishing project is promoted by **MAMBo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna** of the **Settore Musei Civici del Comune di Bologna** along with the **Studio Fabio Mauri – Associazione per l'Arte L'Esperimento del Mondo**, and realized thanks to the support of the **Direzione Generale Creatività Contemporanea del Ministero della Cultura** as part of



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the **Italian Council** program (14th edition, 2025), addressed to the promotion of contemporary Italian art in the world.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a **catalogue published by Silvana Editoriale**, with an introductory essay by the curator, a chronology of the artist's life and works, descriptive entries of the works on display, and images and historical photographs from the artist's archive.

The main sponsors of the event are **Fondazione Cariplo, Eni and Intesa Sanpaolo**.
The technical sponsors are **Open Care, Hidonix and Start**.

The exhibition organized by Associazione Genesi marks the start of the activities of the centennial celebration that will continue with other events, including a major retrospective at MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, travelling to Mudam in Luxembourg.

“Victims of Power is one of the six sections in which the Contemporary Art Collection of the Associazione Genesi develops. The theme of oppression is implicit therein and, unfortunately, more relevant than ever today. It pleases me to know that Associazione Genesi can continue its exploration of this dramatic theme through the work of a major, historic Italian artist like Fabio Mauri who anticipated it. Mauri's works help us to reflect and pave the way for reflections that awaken our consciences. This is why it is of essential importance to reread art history and its protagonists in light of the present and in view of the future: only by doing so can we build a better future” (Letizia Moratti, President of Associazione Genesi).

“In the name of the Estate and Studio Fabio Mauri, I wish to thank Associazione Genesi, President Letizia Moratti, and the curator Ilaria Bernardi for this major exhibition that deals with a fundamental nucleus in the work of my uncle, Fabio Mauri. With dramatic force these works point to the theme of oppression that the artist witnessed from up close when he was young, representing it with radical coherence and far-sightedness in his oeuvre. De Oppressione will open the celebration of the centennial of the birth of Fabio Mauri which will host numerous major events starting from the publication of a General Catalogue that will be presented in a digital preview in this prestigious seat in Milan, our family's adopted city” (President of the Studio Fabio Mauri).

“It is the purpose of the exhibition at the Triennale to show the extent to which Fabio Mauri was not just an artist of doubtless value, but also a refined and farsighted intellectual, capable of reading in the past and present history the seeds of future history. For this reason as well, his relevance in art history continues to grow and become more evident as time goes by: his works, of strong social value, explore the mechanisms with which history, both individual and collective, unfolds within a historical determinism that, alas, seems to each time confirm Giambattista Vico's truth of the 'ebbing and flowing of history'” (Ilaria Bernardi, curator of the exhibition).



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PRESS CONTACTS

STUDIO ESSECI – Sergio Campagnolo
Via San Mattia 16, 35121 Padua
Tel. +39.049.663499
Simone Raddi: simone@studioesseci.net
www.studioesseci.net

in collaboration with:

Associazione Genesi Press Office:
info@associazionegenesi.it

Università Cattolica Press Office:
Nicola Cerbino: Nicola.Cerbino@unicatt.it
Katia Biondi: katia.biondi@unicatt.it

FAI – Fondo per l’Ambiente Italiano Press Office:
Daniela Basso: d.basso@fondoambiente.it

Fondazione Gariwo Press Office:
Joshua Evangelista: comunicazione@gariwo.net

RFK Human Rights Italia Press Office:
Amanda Giralдин: giraldin@rfkitalia.org

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Associazione Genesi, founded in 2020 at the behest of Letizia Moratti, is involved in the defense of human rights through contemporary art, the goal being to contribute to the creation of a citizenry that is more aware and more socially active. To do so, it made way for the Collezione Genesi, selecting works of art by artists from around the world and of different generations, who reflect on urgent, complex, and often dramatic cultural, environmental, social and political issues.

Furthermore, since 2021 Associazione Genesi has organized contemporary art exhibitions on themes related to human rights (including “Progetto Genesi”, 2021-2024), hosted in major exhibition spaces both in Italy and abroad, for instance, ONU in Geneva, Triennale in Milan, Villa Panza in Varese, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin.

In 2025 Associazione Genesi becomes a fully-fledged travelling museum of contemporary art thanks to a series of solo and group shows related to the most urgent social issues.

The Associazione is also the Founder – along with the Università Cattolica, Mapei, WeBuild, and Associazione Always Africa – of E4Impact Foundation, for the development of entrepreneurship in Africa, with the participation of Intesa Sanpaolo, ENI, Montello, Carvico, CONFAPI, Coldiretti, Filiera Italia and, on a personal level, Diana Bracco and Michele Carpinelli.

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STUDIO FABIO MAURI

Studio Fabio Mauri - Associazione per l'Arte L'Esperimento del Mondo is a non-profit cultural association founded in 2000 by Fabio Mauri and continued, after his passing, by his brother Achille, along with the artist's heirs and historic collaborators. In 2023 Santiago Mauri took over the presidency from his father Achille, supported by his brother Sebastiano as vice-president.

Studio Fabio Mauri avails itself of the consulting of an Advisory Committee composed by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, its President, Francesca Alfano Miglietti, Caroline Bourgeois, Laura Cherubini, and Andrea Viliani. The Director of the Associazione is Ivan Barlafante, while collaborators include Marcella Campitelli, Sara Codutti, and Serena Basso. Founded as a tool for the development of activities and projects linked to art and teaching, after Fabio Mauri's death the association became the artist's archive, focused on the preservation and cataloguing of the works, archiving of photographs and documents, expertise and issuing of certificates of authenticity, and the promotion of activities aimed at the dissemination of the thinking and the work of Fabio Mauri.

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