

ANTONIO CAGIANELLI BIOGRAPHY

As the critic Pierre Restany has remarked, Antonio Cagianelli is “a poet who has chosen a three-dimensional mode of expression”. Through his creations he tells a story in which every single piece is like an episode or a character. His poetry is centered on vanity and the ephemeral. He systematically analyses the symbolic and allegorical figurative repertory of the old Flemish Masters “Vanitas” paintings, transferring it into three dimensions, turning each single element into objects central to everyday home life, and transforming it into a witness and a presence that permanently reminds us that we are only in this life for a brief moment. Thus, all natural things which remind us of the vanity of this world are particularly dear to this designer. He crystallises them into forms and matter, freezing their movement and arresting their evolution towards that inevitable disappearance, at time zero when the ephemeral, suspended, will remain forever. It is an exorcism. Is it meant to exorcise death and the passage of time? Or to rebel against nature’s inexorable laws? Or is it against the concept of life itself with its innate movement, passing, evolution and annulment? Clouds, sea foam, the wind, drops, flames, waves, soap bubbles, as well as reflections in a mirror and bones are recurring presences in this metaphorical world. Ancient, classical metaphors living side by side with the new, modern ones such as shadows, graffiti on walls, tears, holidays...all half-way between magical elements from fables, urban rebellion and surrealist influences. Cagianelli is currently working on transferring into his own three-dimensional creations the language of marginality and fragility of young metropolitan communities, hip hop and rap culture. He has also begun to apply his personal language to fashion. Antonio Cagianelli’s creations, such as the pieces produced in series for Alessi or Daum, unique Murano glass objects and installation art, evoke the unsettling atmosphere of Baudelaire’s *Chants*, Ciran’s nihilist writings, and David Lynch’s films with a lighter counterpoint inspired by pop art and hip-hop. Definitely not “politically correct”, Antonio Cagianelli pursues his personal iconoclastic and provocative road in all of his designs (including furniture, jewellery, and art objects) and explores an unlimited range of materials. Born in Pisa, Italy in 1964, Antonio Cagianelli graduated from The Università di Architettura of Florence in 1989. He lives and works in Paris and Milan and collaborates with the Galleria Paola Colombari since 1994.

EXHIBITIONS

2019 "Metastoric meander pop" Personal exhibition at the Peccioli Foundation for Art

He exhibited some unique pieces at the "Design Elysee" Paris Show

At the Paola Colombari Gallery in the exhibition "Design new trend" presented the installation "Egypt" during the Design Week, Milan’s Furniture Fair

2018 Personal exhibition "Omnia Vanitas" by Antonio Cagianelli - Space Gallery Livorno 2018

2018 PIASA Auction, works by Antonio Cagianelli - 2018

2016 Personal exhibition "Cosmic Vanity" by Antonio Cagianelli during the 2016 Design Week at the Galleria Paola Colombari.

2015 Collective exhibition on glass at the Musée Des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Participation in the Salone del Mobile in the collective at the Urban Center of the Municipality of Milan in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele during the Design Week.

2014 Personal exhibition in Paris. Participation in the Salone del Mobile with the Paola Colombari Gallery in the exhibition "Art Design for Freedom" for the occasion presents the "Trans - Vital Mother" seat in fiberglass. Participate in the edition of - Turna - the space between art and design from 6 to 8 June in the Quadrilatero Romano exhibition in Turin, curated by Annalisa Russo and Giuseppe Ghignone and which will be dedicated to the border area between art and design

2013 Participation in April at the Miart Fair with the Paola Colombari Gallery Participation in the Salone del Mobile with the project "The Wall" created by Abet Laminati of which a work is in the permanent collection of the new Museum of Design of Abet Laminati.

2012 Participation in January at Arte Fiera Bologna with the Paola Colombari Gallery Participation in March at the Design Days Dubai Fair, Galleria Paola Colombari Participation during the Salone del Mobile 2012 at Edizioni Galleria Paola Colombari with the exhibition "The Religious Contemporary Design"

2011 Participation in the MiArt Fair with the Paola Colombari Gallery Participation in the Effetto Acciaio exhibition during the Salone del Mobile at the Edizioni Galleria Paola Colombari. June, personal exhibition in Rome at the One Piece Gallery

2010 Participation in the MiArt Fair 2010 with the Paola Colombari Gallery Participation in the exhibition at the Galleria Colombari Editions, Salone del Mobile 2010 Participation in the Fair Art & Design Fair London - October 12/17 2010 - with the Paola Colombari Gallery November 2010 - personal exhibition of jewelery at the Lesley Craze Gallery in London

2009 Group Show jewelery design - Berlin Museum - January 2009 (Skira Catalog) Group show "Eco Trans Pop" - Galleria Colombari Editions - Milan's Furniture Fair - April 2009 Participation Art & Design Fair London - October 14/18 2009 and the Mint Fair - Paola Colombari Gallery Stand

2008 Maison & Object, Paris Collection »Venus« for Monolith and collection »Oxigen« for Arcade. Vicenza. Italian jewel contemporary Milan Triennale. »Designdolls«

2007 Gallery Beckel-Odille-Boicos Paris «Art-Design» Collective Exhibition "Rebel" at the Paola Colombari Gallery Colombari Milan

2006 Arums Gallery. Paris "Memento mori" Gallery Colombari. Milan "The Kingdom of the Spirits"

2005 Clara Scremini Gallery Paris «Heresies». Galleria Paola Colombari Collective exhibition

2004 Art Codif. Musée Des Arts Decoratif. Paris «Diabolique» Venice: »Glass in the world today» Docks Dora Milan in collaboration with Galleria Paola Colombari «Antonio & Valentina»

2002 Engelhorn Gallery Vienna Presentation of bar furniture for Martini-Bacardi Personal exhibition Galleria Colombari. Collective Milan

2001 Galleria Gio Marconi. Milano «One Off». Art Codif Musée des Art Decoratifs Paris. Personal exhibition Galleria Colombari Milan. Collective Landowsky Museum. Boulogne-Billancourt Exhibition "Verre"

1999 Galleria Clara Scremini Paris The artist's personal

1998 Palazzo Ducale - Venice «Open glass»