

PRESS RELEASE

GIANNI PIACENTINO
Works 1965-2021

Curated by **Andrea Bellini**

Opening Saturday 9 April 2022, 5 - 9 pm

April 9 – July 30, 2022

This exhibition by Gianni Piacentino at Galleria Enrico Astuni in Bologna brings together a selection of works made between 1965 and 2021, allowing viewers to retrace the fundamental stages of an extraordinary artistic career. From the sculptures of the mid-1960s that were shown in key exhibitions of the Arte Povera movement, to his most recent work, this broad survey is a one-of-a-kind opportunity—after the artist’s major solo show at Fondazione Prada in Milan—to take a closer look at various aspects of his practice. The works on view range from painting to sculpture, and include several examples of his famous, iconic series of vehicles. They show Piacentino’s enormous flair for experimenting with very different techniques, materials, and colors, while staying true over the years to his own specific vision of beauty and purity. They offer a glimpse of the various directions the artist has taken over time, but also give a clear sense of how his working method is fueled by the dialogue between works from different eras, and of how his basic language is constantly honed work in progress, open to new technology and cutting-edge materials. “Doing shows is important to me,” says Piacentino in a long conversation with Andrea Bellini published in the accompanying catalogue; “juxtaposing the works sparks ideas for new ones.” The exhibition, as a visual and conceptual element, thus becomes an integral part of the creative process: the relationship of the works to each other, but also to the exhibition space and viewer, suggests new solutions, leads his practice into the future, and adds another piece to the “one vast work”—as Piacentino himself puts it—that he has been making all his life.

Born in Coazze (Turin) **1945**

Studies philosophy at University of Turin **1965-1966**

Lectures at the Modern Art Gallery (GAM), Turin **1965-1966**

Works as a disc jockey at Piper Club, Turin **1967**

First works (combined monochrome canvases and colored stretchers) **1965**

First one-man show at Gianenzo Sperone Gallery, Turin **1966**

First group show : "Arte Abitabile" (Gilardi, Piacentino, Pistoletto), Turin **1966**

Use of matt metallic paints: **1967**

Advisor in a factory that produces special paints **1967-1968**

First purchase of large displacement motorcycle (featured in a series that continues today) **1968**

First "Arte Povera" show at De'Foscherari Gallery, Bologna **1968**

Use of pearl paints **1969**

Begins "Vehicles" and "Wings" series **1969**

Starts to decorate racing and special motorcycles **1969**

Use of pearlescent changing colors paints **1970**

First uses the logo "GP" **1970**

First one-man show out of Italy : Onnasch Galerie (Lindenstrasse Galerie Haus), Cologne **1970**

First works purchased by a Museum : Power Institute of Fine Arts, The University of Sidney, Sidney: **1970-1971**

First races as sidecar passenger (750 cc.) in Italy **1971**

First one-man show in New York City : O.K.Harris, **1971**

First one-man show in a Museum . Palais des Beaux-Arts, Bruxelles **1972**

First large canvas on the Wright Brothers **1972-1973**

First races as sidecar passenger (750 cc.) in Europe **1974**

Participates in "documenta 6", Kassel **1977**

Lives and works in New York City **1980-1981**

Begins to combine canvas with parts of sculpture **1983**

Use of Fiberglass and Kevlar **1986**

Participates in XLV Venice Biennale, Venice **1993**

Retrospective Exhibitions :

_Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst e V., Bremen, **1981**

_Fondazione Mudima, Milan, **1994**

_Chiostri di San Domenico, Reggio Emilia, **2000**

_Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneve, **2013**

_Fondazione Prada, Milan, **2015**

Designs and update his official website from **1998**

Begins work with parts designed with CAD and manufactured with CNC milling machines (CAM) **2003**

Use of polished Aluminum Alloy (Anticorodal) **2007**

Resumes racing as a sidecar passenger and decorating racing sidecars **2012**

His work is represented by Michael Werner Gallery, New York and London **2014-2017**

Use of industrial metallic paints on canvas (same models and colors from **1965 to 1980**) **2016**

Use of unedited transparent chrome finish on color (same iconic shapes and colors from **1966-1967**) **2017**

More than 300 Km/h by motorcycle **2020**

Paintings on matt satin stainless steel **2021**

Lives and works in Turin from **1981**

GALLERIA ENRICO ASTUNI
Bologna



3D, 1965
DUCO (vinyl-acrylic) on canvas and wood
cm. 180x105x20



ANODISED ALUMINUM D.S.O. (Model '65), 2017-2018
Anodised Aluminum (Anticorodal 6082).
cm. 210 x 175 x 6,2



LIGHT IVORY PORTAL, 1966-1967
Acrylic enamel (Water-base and 2K clear) on wood
cm. 250 x 125 x 10 (section: cm. 10 x 10)



RHOMBUS FRAME BICYCLE_MODEL 69, 2016
Nitro-acrylic enamel on iron. Water base
(acrylic matt clear) on resin and iron, stainless
steel (threaded rod and nuts), leather on wood.
cm.88 x 296,8 x 27 (44,8 with stand)



SM55 METAL GRID_2, 2020
Industrial 2K acrylic, chrome paint, acrylic on steel
cm. 70 x 280 x 7

GALLERIA ENRICO ASTUNI

Bologna



WRIGHT BROTHERS G.P. COMBINE: profiles_1, 2019

Acrylic on 2K clear acrylic, chrome paint on 2K Acrylic on steel, Water-base(2K matt clear acrylic) on steel. Polished aluminum (Anticorodal 6082)
cm. 49 x 340 x 7,6