

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI WHERE TO START FROM

June 26 / October 18, 2015

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Rome, June 2015. From June 26 to October 18, 2015 MAXXI dedicates to **Maurizio Nannucci**, one of the most important names in Italian contemporary art from the 1960s to the present time, a major exhibition entitled **Where to Start From**, curated by Bartolomeo Pietromarchi.

The exhibition explores, with works both early and recent, the importance and the central position of Nannucci's artistic research. Two new installations were made for this occasion, including the sound installation *Sound Samples* and *More Than Meets the Eye*, a **large-scale work for MAXXI's facade** which, thanks to *Amici del MAXXI*, will join **the museum collection**.

Since the 1960s, Maurizio Nannucci, **a point of reference for many generations of artists, architects, musicians, critics and curators**, has examined the relationship between art, language, and image. His research, which has always been characterized by the dialogue between the various disciplines, explores the relationship between light, color, sound and both real and imagined space, which becomes particularly evident in his large neon writings. Nannucci's work is conceptual – it is an exploration between culture and society, with a close connection between architecture and urban landscape – whose language restores a symbolic and spatial value to the single words.

As concerns his research the artist says "I believe that the image transcends the limits of the representation, becoming a mental image, a virtual one, an image born from a dream or a dream with eyes wide open, a visualized and relative image, which can be evoked by a single word, a sound, or a scent. The same can be said for the images that refer to each other and require the absence of an object; I do not limit them, nor do I reduce them to a figure; I give them freedom and fantastic independence..."

His works, on view in the museum's Gallery 3, share a reciprocal dialogue.

On display are the following: the installation *Anthology* (1967/2015...), an index of texts and concepts that are continually being updated, and the large wall in white neon: *There Is Another Way of Looking at Things*. The exhibition presents historic and anticipatory works such as the pages of *Dattilogrammi* (1964/1965), *Alfabetofonetic* (1967), *M40* (1967), *Corner* (1968), *Colors* (1969), the large installation *The Missing Poem Is the Poem* (1969), the sound explorations (since 1966) and the photographic series *Giardini Botanici* (1967) and *Scrivere sull'acqua* (1973). An integral part of the exhibition is the presentation of the **multiples** that the artist has produced since the 1960s: **more than one hundred editions** including multiples, artists' books and records, photos, magazines, ephemera, which express another fundamental practice of the artist's work. Along this trajectory the works interact with the museum space, perceptively changing it, as in the case of the installation *Sound Samples*. This work creates a further ideal connection to the nearby Auditorium Parco della Musica for which the artist made, in collaboration with Renzo Piano in 2002, a large permanent installation of neon texts entitled *Polifonia*.

Maurizio Nannucci (Florence, 1939) is one of the protagonists of Italian art in the recent decades, as well as having achieved international acclaim. Since the mid-1960s he has explored the complex relations between art, language and image, creating unprecedented conceptual proposals, characterized by the use of a variety of media: neon, photography, video, sound, artists' editions and books. His first neon texts date from 1967: these bring to his work a more varied dimension of meanings and a new perception of space. The artist has always been interested in the relationships between the artwork / architecture / urban landscape, thereby creating the premises for an integration between environment, language, color and light, the core elements of his work. Thus were born, in the 1990s, collaborations and projects with Renzo Piano as well as with other architects, such as Massimiliano Fuksas, Mario Botta, Nicolas Grimshaw, Stephan Braunfels. On a number of occasions Maurizio Nannucci was invited to the Venice Biennale

Documenta Kassel, the Biennials in São Paulo, Sydney, Istanbul, and he has showed his work in some of the major museums and galleries across the world.

On the occasion of the exhibition a **catalogue dedicated to the exhibition** will be published (Mousse Edizioni) with critical essays by Bartolomeo Pietromarchi and Stefano Chiodi and an interview with Hou Hanru.

The press pack and images of the exhibition can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.fondazionemaxxi.it/area-riservata/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

MAXXI - Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo

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opening hours: 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday)

11:00 a.m. – 11.00 p.m. (Saturday); closed on Mondays, May 1 and December 25

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