



Bagno Alpemare, Forte dei Marmi (LU)
From 10th June to 7th September 2024

The Contini Art Gallery, in partnership with the Celebrity Adventures Foundation, is pleased to announce Mario Arlati's solo exhibition at the historic Alpemare beach club, a renowned bathing establishment in Forte dei Marmi, owned by the Bocelli family. The exhibition, created under the direction of Alberto Bartalini, will be open to the public from June to September 2024.

At the enchanting Alpemare beach club, surrounded by the natural frame of the Apuan Alps, you can admire eight vibrant fibreglass sculptures representing giraffes, each personalised by the artist on behalf of the Celebrity Adventures Foundation through the application of particular films.

Born and raised in Milan, Mario Arlati discovered his artistic dimension in Ibiza, a small Balearic Island. There, inspired by the Spanish school of art, he abandoned the figurative style to approach the *arte informale* style, also known as informal matterism. In his evocative paintings, colour takes on symbolic connotations: black for the unknown, white for purity, blue for vision, and red for blood

and violence. In particular, his “Walls” evoke the sunny atmosphere and landscapes of Ibiza, the symbiosis created between man and nature, the work of the sun and the sea.

The works exhibited here refer to some of the artist’s most representative works. Three sculptures are inspired by the “Incomplete Flags” series, where the term “incomplete” emphasises the active role of the spectator, who is called to complete the work with his own gaze and intuition. In particular, the sculptures feature two works with the flag of the United States of America, and a third with the flag of the European Union.

Two other sculptures have a film covering taken from the iconic “Rags” series, created by Arlati by recovering cloths either used during the painting process, or recycled from dyeing laboratories. Finally, the “Walls” series consists of the last two giraffes which are wrapped in films that reproduce, respectively, a painting in white and gold tones and a painting in which blue dominates.

To confirm Mario Arlati’s social commitment, at the end of the exhibition the works will be auctioned off at a charity auction organised by the Celebrity Adventures Foundation, which will be held on September 6th at Villa Alpebella, near Forte dei Marmi.

For further details on the charity initiative, you can contact the foundation at auctionitaly@celebrityadventures.org.

The Celebrity Adventures Foundation thanks the Contini Art Gallery and Mario Arlati for their precious contribution and support in the realisation of this charity project, also extending thanks to Qeeboo and Marcantonio for their contribution.

Biography

Mario Arlati was born in Milan in 1947. After a few years of irregular studies, he trained artistically at the Art School of Castello Sforzesco in Milan. Following this, his first works are in the purest figurative style, but in the 1970s he discovered his dimension in Ibiza, a small island in the Balearic Islands. Since then, Mario Arlati has lived and worked in Ibiza several months a year and his works are a clear testimony of the artistic involvement that has taken place. From the figurative he moves onto the informal material following in the footsteps of the Spanish school. His “Muri” (Walls) are a representation of the sunny atmosphere of the island, of the symbiosis that is created between man and nature, of the continuous work that the sun, the wind and the sea perform on the work of man, giving life to unique and unrepeatably products. Known in Italy and abroad, in 2014 he made his mark with the “Living Art” project, where the artist painted the facades of the five skyscrapers of the Pavshino Living Art Towers residential complex in the Moscow suburbs, designed by Dante O. Benini. In 2017, for this very project, the artist was awarded the L’Arca International Special Prize. In 2018, in Venice, he inaugurated “Muri e stracci: la materia diventa Arte” at the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa. In the winter of the same year, his light installation “Art Light Flags” illuminates the bell tower of San Marco and will be presented again in 2021 on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of the Hotel Cristallo and spa in Cortina d’Ampezzo and the World Ski Championships. Summer 2022 saw the opening of the exhibition “Mario Arlati. Matter becomes Art” in Viareggio. In 2023, the exhibition “Mario Arlati. The Matter of Art” was held

at the Reggia di Monza. During the exhibition, young people from the social enterprise "Il Carro" painted the flag of the United Nations on a canvas made of recycled materials. The same flag is displayed in 2024 on the occasion of the exhibition "UNcomplete Flag" at the Codeway Expo - Fiera Roma. Today Mario Arlati lives and works in both Milan and Ibiza and has been represented exclusively by the Contini Art Gallery since 2001.

The exhibition can be visited daily until 7th September 2024.

The bathing establishment is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 11 p.m.

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