

## ***Il canto della terra***

Curated by Paolo Repetto

20 February - 11 April 2025 | Repetto Gallery, Lugano

With works by: **Giovanni Anselmo, Mirella Bentivoglio, Joseph Beuys, Alberto Burri, Gianni Caravaggio, Daniele De Lonti, Olafur Eliasson, Hamish Fulton, Mario Giacomelli, Piero Gilardi, Andy Goldsworthy, Michael Heizer (fotografie di Gianfranco Gorgoni), Michelangelo Pistoletto, Richard Long, Ana Mendieta, David Nash, Ernesto Neto, Giuseppe Penone, Alessandro Piangiamore, Arcangelo Sassolino, Robert Smithson (fotografie di Gianfranco Gorgoni), Barthélemy Toguo, James Turrell, Laura Viale.**

Special music composition realized by **Luciano Zampar.**

Repetto Gallery is pleased to announce ***Il canto della terra***, an exhibition **curated by Paolo Repetto** and held as part of the diffuse festival "L'Uomo e il Clima", which **explores the intimate and complex relationship between man and nature in a visual journey that celebrates their eternal dance** and takes us on an artistic journey where matter becomes canvas and art becomes an echo of the whisper of the wind, the trembling of the water and the breath of the earth. In an era of increasing urbanisation and disconnection from nature, the works of the artists featured in the exhibition invite us to reflect on our ancestral connection to the earth, our responsibility towards the environment and the intrinsic beauty of the natural landscape. Recognising the interdependence and intrinsic value of all forms of life becomes a prerequisite for rediscovering, as the curator states in the exhibition's critical text, «nature as an immense surface, an immense clay with which to work, on which to work. "The work of art is no longer the pictorial representation of a landscape, but the landscape itself. (Gerry Schum).»

At the centre of the exhibition are the experiments of Land Art, with emblematic examples such as *Spiral Jetty* by **Robert Smithson** (1938 - 1973) and *Double Negative* (b. 1969) by **Michael Heizer** (b. 1944), photographed by **Gianfranco Gorgoni** (1941 - 2019), works that significantly altered the landscape by excavating, sculpting or building, redefining the traditional concept of sculpture. Artists such as **Richard Long** (b. 1945) and **Hamish Fulton** (b. 1946), on the other hand, subtly delineate the environment, using walking as a tool to denounce a society alienated from the natural world.

The inscription of the human body into the natural environment is also a central theme in the work of Cuban-born artist **Ana Mendieta** (1948 - 1985) and Cameroonian artist **Barthélemy Toguo** (1967). The human grafting that naturalises plant processes is also characteristic of the Arte Povera movement and Italian artists such as **Giovanni Anselmo** (1934 - 2003) and **Giuseppe Penone** (b. 1947), **Alberto Burri** (1915 - 1995) and **Piero Gilardi** (1942 - 2023) also reflected on these themes through the metaphorical representation of slices of landscape, while Laura Viale (b. 1967) incorporated these reflections into her own practice, which Gilardi himself described as 'an experience of extroversion through hybridisation with nature'.

Nature and the act of caring for the planet are also tangential elements in the research of verbo-visual artist **Mirella Bentivoglio** (1922 - 2017), which **Michelangelo Pistoletto** (b. 1933) recognises as the primary responsibility that human society must assume.

Among the Italian artists of later generations who have embraced the conflictual reflection between man and his surroundings are **Arcangelo Sassolino** (b.1967), **Gianni Caravaggio** (b.1968) and **Alessandro Piangiamore** (b.1976), who make visible the inevitable and violent clash between the artificial and the natural, in its perceptible and imperceptible aspects. Reflections also adopted by the british artist **David Nash** (b. 1945)

If sculpture is the privileged medium of these artists, **Mario Giacomelli** (1925 - 2000), **James Turrell** (b. 1943) and **Daniele De Lonti** (b. 1959), it becomes a tool for studying the forms and irregularities of the earth's surface, capturing both the spontaneous morphology of the landscape and the transformations imposed by human action over time.

Among the most committed international artists, **Joseph Beuys** (1921 – 1986), **Olafur Eliasson** (b. 1967) and **Ernesto Neto** (b. 1964) have made it their aim to raise awareness of the climate crisis and ecological problem, transforming artistic practice into a political and environmental narrative.

To further enrich the exhibition, *Diluvio in Dissolvenza*, a sound work specially created by the musician **Luciano Zampar**, will be presented.

In a hymn to regeneration, the exhibition celebrates the return to the earth as a primordial call, inviting visitors to rethink their role and recognise their responsibility in caring for nature, celebrating its wonder and mystery. A selection of works that brings the pioneers of ecological art into dialogue with mid-career artists, with the aim of paving the way for a future exhibition dedicated to the new generations, so that young artists can give voice to their personal song of the Earth.

We warmly thank the lenders, artists, archives and galleries for their support in the realisation of the exhibition and the historical-critical professionals for their textual contributions.

Informazioni:

*Il canto della terra*

a cura di Paolo Repetto

20 February - 11 April 2025

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Via Clemente Maraini 24, Lugano, Svizzera

To request press images contact: [info@repettogallery.ch](mailto:info@repettogallery.ch)

The event is realised as part of the diffuse festival "L'Uomo e il Clima"

<https://uomoeclima.org/>

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