

TOMMASO CALABRO

FAUSTA SQUATRITI

Thoughts of a flat space

Opening
Tuesday, 24 September 2024
12 pm – 8 pm

25 September – 21 December 2024
Casa Grondona
Corso Italia 47, Milan

"Geometry, which seemed to be the confined field of rationality, is in fact much broader than the unconscious."

Giulio Carlo Argan

On Thursday, 26 September 2024, Tommaso Calabro inaugurates ***Fausta Squatriti. Thoughts of a Flat Space*** at its Milan gallery, in Corso Italia 47. The exhibition celebrates a pivotal moment in the artistic journey of **Fausta Squatriti (1941-2024)**, who recently passed away, highlighting her exploration and challenge of the rules of geometric abstraction.

Born in Milan in 1941, Fausta Squatriti was a multifaceted figure, standing out for her intense intellectual activity and diverse artistic career encompassing sculpture, painting, and writing. A student of Oskar Kokoschka, who described her as "mysterious but talented," Squatriti collaborated with some of the most influential figures in the international art scene, including Man Ray, Niki de Saint Phalle, Lucio Fontana, Jesús-Rafael Soto and Jean Tinguely. In 1964, she founded the historic Tosi Editions, becoming a central figure in Milan's vibrant cultural scene, which was then a crossroads for artistic and intellectual avant-gardes.

With this exhibition, Tommaso Calabro continues its exploration of artists associated with the art gallerist Alexander Iolas, who between 1967 and 1970 worked with Fausta Squatriti on posters, editions and art catalogs for his exhibitions, organizing a solo show of the artist at his Geneva gallery in 1972.

Fausta Squatriti. Thoughts of a Flat Space presents about twenty works, including sculptures and works on paper, from the series *Studi Cromatici*, *Sculture Nere* and *Fisiologia del Quadrato*, created between the 1970s and 1980s. These pieces, previously exhibited at the Galleria del Naviglio in Milan (1979) and the Galerie Denise René in Paris (1982) — a key institution for international abstract-geometric trends — are now part of the permanent collections of major museums, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Museo del Novecento in Milan.

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The works on display at Tommaso Calabro bear witness to a crucial period in Squatriti's career. Starting in 1968, her artistic exploration evolved from eccentric, joyful and almost dreamlike forms to a more austere and essential approach, characterized by the rigorous use of geometry, precise calculation and a deep investigation of the dynamics between fullness and emptiness, color and form.

In her *Studi Cromatici* — works on paper created with pastel, watercolor and collage — Squatriti explores the use of color as a structural element within two-dimensional space. With the *Sculture Nere*, she makes the transition to three-dimensionality, asserting: "calculation always leads to sculpture." These austere, totemic works, made of iron and mirrored steel, abandon all decorative and chromatic elements to focus on pure geometries and structures that interact with the surrounding space. In *Fisiologia del Quadrato*, Squatriti continues her analysis of basic geometric shapes, focusing on the variations and transformations that a simple figure like the square can undergo through processes of deconstruction and recomposition.

The exhibition also includes an archival section featuring catalogs, preparatory drawings and the artist's notebooks to offer an intimate look into Squatriti's creative process. It highlights her study of geometry as a tool for understanding the world and as a method for addressing history, both personal and collective.

This exhibition is realized in collaboration with the Fausta Squatriti Archive, which Tommaso Calabro thanks for their support.

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday – Saturday / 11 am – 7 pm

Monday / by appointment

PRESS ENQUIRIES

info@tommasocalabro.com | +39 02 49696387

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@tommasocalabrogallery @archivio_fausta_squatriti

www.tommasocalabro.com
