

PRESS RELEASE
8 January 2020



Riflettore avorio, 1992

RENATO MAMBOR

from Today to
Yesterday,
towards Tomorrow

Opening

Tuesday, January 28, 2020
6.30pm – 9pm

Exhibition

29 January - 22 February 2020

Conference

with Walter Guadagnini, Gianna Mazzini and
Patrizia Speciale Mambor
Screening of the documentary
'Mambor', realised by Gianna Mazzini
Institut Culturel Italien
Thursday, February 13, 2020
7pm

In 2020, Tornabuoni Art Paris will stage the most comprehensive survey of Renato Mambor ever to be held outside of Italy. Continuing its programme of presenting twentieth-century and contemporary Italian artists to the international public, Tornabuoni Art will highlight the work of this important and multi-faceted figure of the Italian School of Piazza del Popolo, in collaboration with the Archivio Mambor and Federico Sardella, the Italian art critic and writer on the artists of this period. The show will gather 30 artworks from the 1960s to 2013, surveying Mambor's entire career.

Featuring a selection of paintings, an installation and the screening of the film 'Mambor' by Gianna Mazzini, the exhibition traces the wide-ranging work of this significant artist, whose work connects to many currents in painting and performance art, yet who has remained less well-known internationally. This show is one of the first retrospective since the artist passed away in 2014. The last major exhibition of his work was held at the Palazzo Te in Mantua in 2014.

Mambor was originally part of the Roman School of Piazza del Popolo, which during the early 1960s adopted a more figurative, Pop-inspired approach in reaction against the abstraction of Art Informel of the 1950s. His fellow artists included Mario Schifano, Franco Angeli, Tano Festa, Pino Pascali, Mario Ceroli and Jannis Kounellis, among others. Mambor played a major role in the return to a form of figuration, also becoming a celebrated performer, theatre director and stage designer.

This show focuses on the artist's creative process in a variety of media – from fine art to performance – bringing together artworks and archival materials and highlighting the artist's interest in the body and its representation and perception.

His important 'Osservatore' series, presents an individual devoted to the act of observation and exemplifies the symbiotic relationship between performance and art in Mambor's work. While the artist originally removed himself from his paintings, in more recent years he introduced his own figure into his work. Mambor sought not simply to look at himself, but to acknowledge his role as an artist and protagonist in his own work. He appears in silhouette and profile in his paintings, sculptures and installations in order to focus on the act of observing, rather than the individual character.

Also featured in the Tornabuoni Art exhibition is the large installation *Fili*, which consists of multi-color thread spools and a life-sized sculptural figure in the foreground. Cut to Mambor's profile, the figure holds the start of a skein of yarn, as it highlights the artist's idea that separation is an illusion and everything is connected, as he explained in 2012:

"There is nothing and no one that is truly separate from the rest, for life itself becomes manifest in the relationship... between the painter and the act of creating the painting, between the painting and the viewer... These threads in art are what bind us to our fellow travellers, to contemporary history, to the past, to the various forms of art, even to those we do not share. Even a missed beat is part of the heart".

The exhibition is accompanied by an important catalogue edited by Federico Sardella in collaboration with the Archivio Mambor.

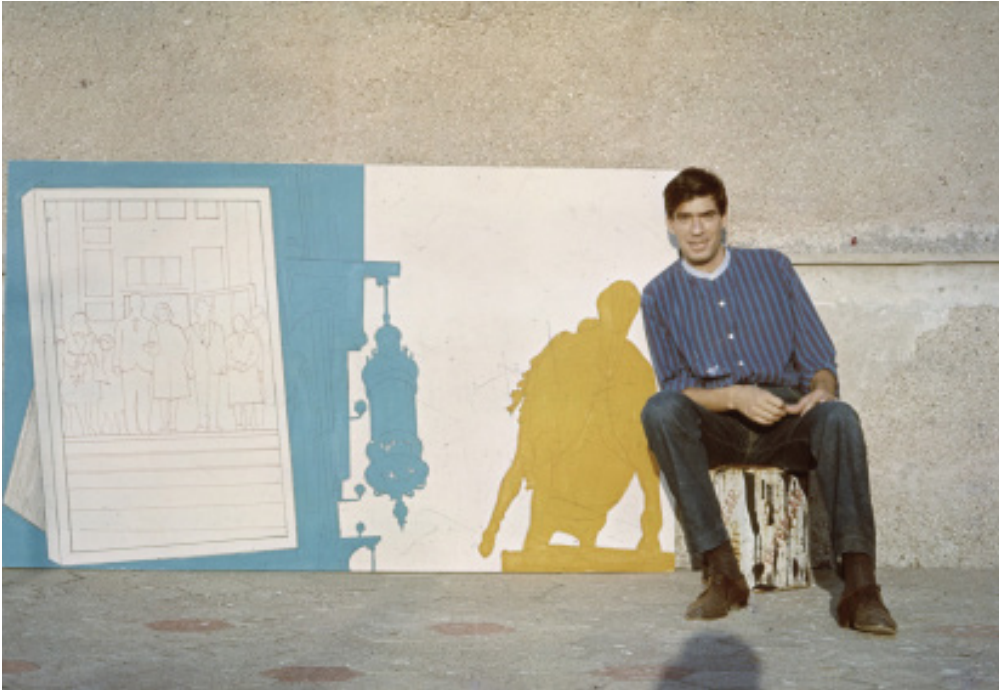
« I want to do everything, dance, sing, write, act, make movies, theater, poetry, I want to express myself by all means, but I want to do it as a painter because painting is not a way of doing but a way of being. »

– Renato Mambor

NOTES TO EDITORS

RENATO MAMBOR

(ROME, 1936 - 2014)



Renato Mambor was born in Rome in 1936. A painter, writer, photographer, theater director and actor, his multiple experiences make him a particularly complex personality and a wide-ranging artist.

He was a member of what was historically called the School of Piazza del Popolo alongside Mario Schifano, Pino Pascali, Mario Ceroli or Jannis Kounellis. This group of post-war artists in Rome who came of age in the early 1960s, returned to a figurative lexicon following the abstraction of Art Informel. They are commonly known as Italian Pop artists, although their work shared no common style or medium beyond an interest in mass media and popular culture.

Mambor's work initially centered around the design of anonymous figures, through the use of static silhouettes, road signs, photographic montages and printing. His first solo exhibition was held at the gallery Appia Antica in Rome in 1959. In 1960, he won an 'encouragement' prize awarded by the Gallery of Modern Art in Rome, which led him to exhibit at La Tartaruga gallery in Rome, an important gallery for post-war Italian art.

Alongside his activity as a painter, he devoted himself to the cinema and appeared notably in 'La Dolce Vita' by Federico Fellini, before collaborating with, among others, Ugo Tognazzi, Totò and Chet Baker on films. In 1975 he directed a theater troupe 'Gruppo Trousse', whose name comes from a metal sculpture made by the artist. For Mambor, his multi-faceted artistic interests were all part of his practice as a painter, which drove his artistic vision throughout his career, as he summarized: "I want to do everything, dance, sing, write, play, do cinema, theater, poetry, I want to express myself by all means, but I want to do it as a painter, because to paint is not a way of doing things but a way of being."

In 1985 he exhibited his works at the Castello di Rivoli Museum in Turin, but it was in 1989 that he fully returned to painting, after leaving it aside for a decade. He then participated in many exhibitions, including the Milan Triennale in 2004 or the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

ABOUT TORNABUONI ART



Founded in Florence in 1981 by Roberto Casamonti, in the street that gave the gallery its name, Tornabuoni opened other exhibition spaces in Crans-Montana in 1993, Milan in 1995, Forte Dei Marmi in 2004, Paris in 2009 and London in 2015.

Specialising in Post-War Italian art, the gallery presents the work of artists such as Fontana, Burri, Castellani, Bonalumi, Boetti, Scheggi and Manzoni. Tornabuoni Art also has a permanent collection of significant works by major twentieth-century Italian artists, such as de Chirico, Morandi, Balla and Severini, as well as international avant-garde masters, such as Picasso, Mirò, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Wesselmann, Warhol and Basquiat. Complementing its focus on Italian art, the Tornabuoni Art collection also features the work of young contemporary artists, such as the Italian artist Francesca Pasquali and the Italy-based Armenian artist Mikayel Ohanjanyan, who, along with the Armenian pavilion, won the Golden Lion at the 2015 Venice Biennale.

Tornabuoni Art participates in major international art fairs such as the FIAC in Paris, TEFAF in Maastricht and New York, Art Basel, Art Basel Miami, Art Basel Hong Kong, Miart in Milan, Frieze Masters in London, Artgeneve in Geneva and Artmonte-carlo in Monaco.

The gallery also works closely with museums, artists' estates and institutions, for example with the Fondazione Burri Collezione Palazzo Albizzini and the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice on a retrospective of the work of Alberto Burri, during the Venice Biennale 2019. Tornabuoni Art's experience and knowledge of the work of the artists it represents, has also enabled the gallery to establish itself as an advisor for both private and public collections.

Press Contact

Sarah Greenberg
 Director, Evergreen Arts
 +44 (0)7866543242
 sgreenberg@evergreen-arts.com
 www.evergreen-arts.com

Gallery Contact

Francesca Piccolboni
 Director
 +33 7 85 51 36 42
 fpiccolboni@tornabuoniart.fr
 www.tornabuoniart.fr

Images :

- *Riflettore avorio*, 1992, enamel and marker on cut-out cardboard, 72 x 97 cm. (28,34 x 38,18 in.) © Tornabuoni Art
 - *Mambor e Fotoricordo*, 1966 © Archivio Mambor

For more information on the gallery and its activities, visit www.tornabuoniart.fr.

Follow us on Facebook (@TornabuoniArt), Instagram (@TornabuoniArt), Twitter (@TornabuoniArt) and Pinterest (@TornabuoniArt) with the hashtags #RenatoMambo #RenatoMamborExhibition #TornabuoniArt.

IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR PRESS



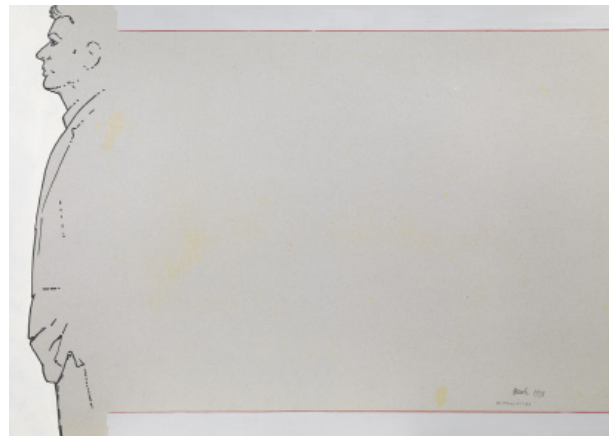
Timbri, 1964,
stamp ink and marker on paper,
50 x 72 cm., (19,68 x 28,34 in.)
© Tornabuoni Art



Fili, 2012,
painted and enameled wood shapes, multi-color thread spools,
various dimensions
© Tornabuoni Art



I protettori, 2007,
mixed media on canvas on wood panel,
100 x 150 cm., (39,37 x 59,05 in.)
© Tornabuoni Art



Distanziatore, 1998, mixed media on cardboard,
72 x 99,5 cm., (28,34 x 39,17 in.) © Tornabuoni Art



Mambor e Fotoricordo, 1966
© Archivio Mambor



Renato Mambor, Araldica mobile 1969
© Archivio Mambor