

BIOGRAFY

... "Et puis un jour la pièce s'est vidée, et il n'est plus restée qu'un fauteuil et l'ombre d'un labyrinthe.

From: LE STANZE DELLA MEMORIA Pierre Restany

Carla Tolomeo started painting under the guidance of De Chirico, her teacher during her adolescent years and one who has left a lasting mark on her painting style. Her art works, sophisticated and rich in quotations, can today be counted amongst private and public collections across Europe and the United States.

In **1970** she made her painting debut at the international exhibition D'Après in Lugano, followed by her first personal exhibition in Rome at the gallery Lo Spazio.

In **1978** she exhibited at the gallery Wurtle in Vienna with a series of art works inspired by Vittore Carpaccio, the exhibition then moved on to Luxembourg, Zurich and Lugano.

Between **1980** and 1997 she held a series of exhibitions in Milan and Venice at the Galleria del Naviglio, supervised by Renato Cardazzo.

In **1992**, the Palazzo Reale in Milan hosted a retrospective exhibition of her work, entitled *Le stanze della Memoria* (The Memory Rooms). In 1993 she exhibited at the Museo di Campione and was invited to the exhibition *I protagonisti degli anni 80*, supervised by Bonito Oliva.

In 1995 she was in Mantua, at the Casa del Mantegna, with an exhibition of art works inspired by the great master.

1997 marked a distinct cut-off point: after her exhibition in London at the prestigious Leicester's Galleries, which was met with great success, Carla Tolomeo decided to pit her artistic strength against new and different artistic environments.

It was the year in which she gave her first exhibition as a sculptor, held at the Fortezza da Basso in Florence. This was when she started to conceive and construct her first Sculpture Chairs, which instantly propelled her into the centre of international interest.

In **1998** she received a request from Neiman Marcus for her Chairs, these subsequently played a starring role in the Festa of Italy, both in New York and Dallas,

In **1999** she was invited to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rieka, then in Zagreb, Dresden and Rotterdam. Blumarine requested a Rose Chair for each and every one of its boutiques around the world, from Peking to Honolulu. Missoni opened up its archives and gave her some of its rarest fabrics for the realization of her Sculpture Chairs to be put on show at the first large-scale Italian exhibition, held at the Studio Cappellini in Milano. Contemporary art galleries were also following the phenomenon with great interest, and soon her Chairs were set to be exhibited by Giorgio Vecchiato, by the Studio Guastalla and by Stefano Contini.

The most influential, international art and interior design magazines dedicate a great deal of coverage to Carla Tolomeo and her art works. Hermès, in Paris, asked her to collaborate with the famous **2000–2001** Christmas Event on the historic Faubourg Saint Honoré shop windows. In **2003**, the prestigious Hotel Meurice asked the Italian artist to create some permanent installations for its rooms in the Rue de Rivoli.

In **2003** Carla Tolomeo was in Miami for Art Basel, at SenzaTempo, with 18 sculptures which were immediately in great demand amongst New York art and design collectors.

Since **2004**, the artist has had a contract, exclusive for Italy, with Roberto Casamenti from the Tornabuoni Arte gallery. The Tornabuoni gallery exhibited Carla Tolomeo's marble sculptures, together with her Chairs, at Forte dei Marmi, Florence, Milan, Venice, Portofino and Crans sur Sière. From that time onwards, the artist's works have featured at the most important exhibitions of contemporary art: Fiac in Paris, Art Basel in Miami, Arte Fiera in Bologna, Miart in Milan.

The same year saw the publication of her well thought-out catalogue, *Mai sedersi sugli allori* (Never rest on your laurels), which documents the first ten years of Tolomeo's work as a sculptor, with writings by Raffaele Carrieri, Georges Astalos, Roberto Tassi, Milena Milani and Vittorio Sgarbi.

This was followed by the *Manuale di Zoologia fantastica da Borges*, Gribaudo edition, featuring 30 of the artist's previously unpublished tempera paintings.

In **2005** she was invited to the Pushkin Museum in Moscow for her first Russian exhibition, supervised by Yurji Fleischman. Others followed in St Petersburg and in Kazakhstan.

In **2006** Carla Tolomeo was invited by the Fondazione Cerratelli to exhibit 25 art works in the exhibition *I Barocchi*, catalogue Idea Books with an introduction by Dante Isella. Her new general catalogue 2004–06 was supervised by Tornabuoni Arte Contemporanea and presented in Forte dei Marmi to coincide with her personal exhibition.

In September a personal exhibition of the artist's works went on show at the Tornabuoni Gallery in Florence.

During **2007**, Tolomeo has worked on her monument, Totem-fontana, for the city of Forte dei Marmi.

Her Sculpture Chairs are now part of the *Mirabili Arte d'Abitare* collection, which is also open to international buyers.

In April, the artist's personal exhibition, *Mai sedersi sugli allori*, was mounted at the Villa Reale, the museum of contemporary art in Milan.