

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E*****Şakir Gökçebağ. Twists & Turns*****16 October 2022 to 16 April 2023**

Şakir Gökçebağ has come up with a refreshingly original version of minimalism in his art. His works consist of simple items of everyday use – all mass produced and preferably from hardware centres, clothes shops or general household stores. Taking simple everyday objects like coat hangers, umbrellas, or toilet rolls, he arranges them in subtle compositions that operate at the interface of abstraction and figuration.

Even if sometimes the source material chosen for a work only reveals itself at second glance, it is important to Gökçebağ that it remains recognizable and its identity is not erased. In fact, it is an essential part of his concept that these everyday objects are known and found the world over. In this way, his art speaks a global language and remains true to life. By embedding banal quotidian things in an art context, they receive a new, unsuspected attention, and moreover undergo an elevating change in meaning while still keeping their feet firmly on the ground.

Gökçebağ achieves this transformation by carefully chosen strategies of defamiliarisation, as for instance accumulation, serial arrangement, and processes of decomposition such as dividing up, breaking apart, and cutting into pieces. By these means he arrives at works marked by striking visual effects where movement may be simulated, or filigree structures emerge with a noticeably calligraphic character. Gökçebağ almost always strives to create a systematic order, for which he is particularly fond of employing repetitive patterns. Consequently, many of his works have a distinctly ornamental quality, which at times evokes the abstract imagery of the Orient and thus references a cultural sphere that the Turkish-born artist is very familiar with.

Despite their precise execution and the structural rigour of their construction, Gökçebağ's works are certainly not deadly serious. Indeed, the twenty or so works in the exhibition are proof that his art has always a dash of humour, which comes from his resourceful metamorphosis of the quotidian.

***Tutto bene! Italian Art from the Marli Hoppe-Ritter Collection*****16 October 2022 to 16 April 2023**

Modernism descended on Italy amid a great deal of din and hullabaloo at the beginning of the 20th century when the Futurist avant-gardes launched a liberating broadside at the heavy yoke of art and cultural history. The revolt was accompanied by a celebration of innovation and progress in the age of the machine. Armed with the new grammar of visual abstraction, they captured the spirit of new departures and advances, and turned to the depiction of speed and sequences of motion. With this they established key motifs and ideas that many of subsequent generations of artists were to return to.

The exhibition featuring works from the Museum's collection is dedicated to Italy's specific contribution to abstraction and nonrepresentational art, and takes a look at various currents and approaches that have helped shape developments over the past hundred years. Over 70 paintings, reliefs, objects and kinetic works give a sense of just how differently the principles of geometry and mathematics can be interpreted. Thus, freely composed, almost sign-like forms determined the painting of the Movimento d'arte concreta, while grids and serial structures set the works of the Arte programmata in vibration and motion. The way the pictorial plane can be transformed into a field of action for light, colour and chromatic materiality, as pure manifestations, is demonstrated by the art of Antonio Calderara, Enrico Castellani and Paolo Masi. The other highlights of the show are the larger groups of works by two individuals whose works are essentially based on the shape of the square: the colourful word picture embroideries by the conceptual artist Alighiero Boetti, and the black and white works of the artist-designer Marcello Morandini, who transforms the strict systems of mathematics into dynamic rhythmic structures.

**Participating Artists (selection):**

Alighiero Boetti, Corrado Bonomi, Antonio Calderara, Enrico Castellani, Gianni Colombo, Dadamaino, Fortunato Depero, Piero Dorazio, Paolo Masi, Marcello Morandini, Bruno Munari, Paolo Scirpa, Atanasio Soldati, Grazia Varisco, and Francesco Vezzoli

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