



**Towards *Annunciazione***  
**Nanni Valentini**  
**The final years**

16 December 2021 - 5 March 2022

Curated by Flaminio Gualdoni and Luca Bochicchio

On 16 December 2021 ABC-ARTE in Genoa opened the exhibition *Towards Annunciazione. Nanni Valentini. The final years.*

On 19 January 1984 a one-man exhibition of work by Nanni Valentini was inaugurated in the Contemporary Art Pavilion Milan. It was the first public recognition of his work, by now at the pinnacle of his brief period of maturity. The works shown there have become milestones in his career: *Deriva*, *Il dialogo*, and above *Annunciazione*, the work with which his idea of a possible statuary and an oblique confrontation with the sacred, between physical and metaphysical, resurfaced powerfully.

The catalogue that accompanied that exhibition included the testimonies of some fellow travellers - Pier Giovanni Castagnoli, Umberto Galimberti, Francesco Leonetti, Giorgio Soro - who situated Nanni's work in the lively interstice of problems connected with form and matter. Regrettably, that extraordinary conflagration was soon extinguished. Valentini passed away without warning on 5 December 1985.

Today the ABC-ARTE gallery revives that extraordinary moment by reconstructing almost entirely the 1984 exhibition, with the addition of a few pieces intended to document that period, under the title *Towards Annunciazione. Nanni Valentini. The final years.* It is a fitting tribute to Valentini at a moment when the profundity of his mastery has been largely understood, and of a critical rethinking of the sensational anomaly represented at that time by those works. Flaminio Gualdoni, who curated the 1984 exhibition in the Milanese Pavilion, resumes the threads of that discourse and draws them to extreme results in a contemporary critical interpretation with the support of Luca Bochicchio.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a new bilingual monograph published by ABC-ARTE with essays by the curators Flaminio Gualdoni and Luca Bochicchio and a richly illustrated ensemble of images made available by the Nanni Valentini Archive.

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16 December 2021 - 5 March 2022  
Tu-Sat: 09:30-13:30 and 14:30-18:30  
Sun-Mo: by appointment

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### Brief biography of the artist

Nanni Valentini  
(Sant'Angelo in Vado 1932 - 1985 Vimercate)

Nanni Valentini began by attending the art academy for ceramic decoration in Pesaro in 1945 before moving on to the institute of art in Faenza, where he continued until 1953. He started to collaborate with Bruno Baratti's studio in Pesaro and to attend the academy in Bologna. In 1956 he was admitted to the circle of Liverani's Galleria La Salita and formed friendships with Gastone Novelli, Emilio Villa and Gino Marotta. He won the first prizes at the XIV Faenza Competition and the XI Vicenza Ceramic Exhibition, followed by many other awards in the subsequent years.

In autumn 1957 he moved to Milan, where he exhibited at the Triennale and began to project the *Serie natura* with Luigi Massoni. He associated with Arnaldo and Giò Pomodoro, Ettore Sottsass and Lucio Fontana. The latter organised the first one-man-show for Valentini in the Milanese Ariete gallery in 1958. In 1960 Valentini exhibited with Giò Pomodoro in the Galleria del Giorno in Milan and had a one-man show in the Salone Annunciata in the same city. In 1967 he was represented in Milan with a one-man exhibition of paintings and sculptures in the Salone Annunciata, followed by a one-man show in the Galleria Segnapassi in Pesaro. He began to teach in the art institute in Monza, where he remained until 1985.

After years of experimentation and further development, in 1975 he presented the 'gauzes' at the Cologne Expo with Studio Casati from Merate. Here he met Carla Pellegrini, who organised his fundamental one-man show in the Galleria Milano in 1976. In the following year he moved to the studio in via Tiziano 42, Arcore and had a one-man show of sculptures and works on paper in Lo Spazio in Brescia.

In the following year he showed in the Galleria del Falconiere in Falconara with *Un ombelico per Empedocle*, and in 1979 with *Una materia per Pitagora* in the Uxa gallery in Novara, *Terra-numero* and *Terra-bagnato* in Studio Casati in Merate, and a one-man show in Galleria Rota in Heilbronn.

In 1980 he opened a new one-man show in the Galleria Milano with his 'luoghi', then in the circle Il Cortile in Bologna, and was represented in the Galleria Ca'Veglia in Salice Terme with *Endimione e i 28 volte di Selene*. In 1982 he presented *Il vaso e il polipo* in the Galleria Vera Biondi in Florence, *L'ombra di Peter Schlemihl* in Galerie -e in Munich, and had a one-man show in the Venice Biennale. In 1983 he presented *Endimione e i 28 volte di Selene* in the Mercato del Sale in Milan.

In 1984 he inaugurated a one-man show in the Padiglione d'arte contemporanea in Milan, where he presented *Deriva*, *Annunciazione* and *Il dialogo*, and in May he inaugurated his one-man show on 'homes' in the Museu de Ceràmica in Barcelona. In the same year he had a one-man show of works on paper in the Civica raccolta del disegno in Salò, and presented ... *dove si racconta* in Studio Dossi in Bergamo. In 1985 he exhibited *L'inno della perla* in the Libreria Giulia in Rome and the Galleria San Luca in Bologna.

Among the posthumous exhibitions of his work are "Nanni Valentini", Hetjens Museum, Düsseldorf, 1986; "Nanni Valentini. Opere: 1982 - 1985", Galleria Civica, Modena, 1987; "Nanni Valentini. I segni della terra", Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Faenza, 1987; "Nanni Valentini", Palazzo Lazzarini, Pesaro, 1988; "Nanni Valentini", Centro La Pescheria, Pesaro, 2005.

List of attached images:

- 1- Nanni Valentini, *Deriva (Spirale, Nodo, Tangente)*, 1982-83, 50x50x85 cm, 36x50x50 cm, 30x80x50 cm, vitrified terracotta;
- 2- Nanni Valentini, *Dialogo*, 1982-83, 240cm h, vitrified terracotta;
- 3- Nanni Valentini, *Dialogo*, 1982-83, 240cm h, vitrified terracotta, detail;
- 4- Nanni Valentini, *Annunciazione*, 1983-84, 200 cm h., installation, terracotta, (ph. Michele Sereni)
- 5- Nanni Valentini, *Annunciazione*, 1983-84, 200 cm h., installation, terracotta, detail; (ph. Michele Sereni)
- 6- Nanni Valentini, exhibition at Padiglione d'arte contemporanea (P.A.C.), Milano, 1984.
- 7- Nanni Valentini, exhibition at Padiglione d'arte contemporanea (P.A.C.), Milano, 1984.
- 8- Nanni Valentini, exhibition at Padiglione d'arte contemporanea (P.A.C.), Milano, 1984.