

ML FINE ART

# Carla Accardi *and her legacy*

Laura Cherubini

Flavia Frigeri

Hans Ulrich Obrist



*in conversation*

Monday 20 April 2020

7pm

**Italian Cultural Institute**

39 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8NX

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LONDON – ML Fine Art announces a panel discussion surrounding the life and work of Italian painter Carla Accardi (1924 – 2014), featuring the contributors of the volume *Carla Accardi: Sicofoil* published by the gallery in 2020. This talk coincides with the ML Fine Art's presentation of twelve sicofoil paintings from the 1960s and 1970s (February 11 – May 8) – the first solo exhibition of Accardi's work in the United Kingdom since 1961 – and a career-spanning retrospective at Museo del Novecento, Milan (27 March – 30 August). By expanding upon personal memories of Carla as well as intimate knowledge of her art and its extended historical context, the three speakers will attempt to advance a critical re-evaluation of one of the most essential European painters of the twentieth century.

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**Laura Cherubini** is professor of Contemporary Art History at Accademia di Brera, Milan, since 1992. She has curated numerous commercial and institutional presentations of Accardi's work, including the artist's last touring exhibition during her lifetime. "Carla Accardi. smarrire i fli della voce," which inaugurated in 2012 at Fondazione Malvina Menegaz per le Arti e le Culture, Castelbasso, subsequently travelled to Torun, Budapest, Thessaloniki, and Athens, finally closing on 9 February 2014, two weeks before Accardi's death. Her innumerable conversations with the artist and her deep knowledge of her work and life provide the basis for the original essay "Painting Laid Bare: From the Construction to the Dissolution of Signs," published in *Carla Accardi: Sicofoil*.

**Flavia Frigeri** is an Art Historian and Curator, currently Teaching Fellow in the History of Art department at University College London. Obtaining her PhD on the 'Scuola di piazza del popolo,' featuring many of Accardi's closest contemporaries in Rome in the 1960s, Flavia has researched Italian art post-war extensively, especially women artists. Recent curatorial projects include *Carola Rama: Eye of the Eyes* in 2019 at Lévy Gorvy in New York and *Boom: Art and Industry in 1960s Italy* at Tornabuoni, London, 2018. Between 2018 and 2019, she published two books, *Pop Art* and *Women Artists* as part of the 'Art Essentials' series edited by Thames & Hudson. In her essay "Carla Accardi's Plastic Dreams" Flavia explores the extraordinary artistic context surrounding Accardi's discovery of sicofoil.

**Hans Ulrich Obrist** is artistic director of the Serpentine Galleries in London. In 2002, while Curator at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Obrist and Laurence Bossé co-curated an exhibition of Carla Accardi's work featuring some of the artist's most iconic paintings and installations. Emphasising Carla Accardi's significant relationships to generations of fellow practitioners and asserting her standing as a veritable "artist's artist," Obrist and Bossé invited Fabrice Hybert, Bertrand Lavier, Franz West, Paola Pivi and Grazia Toderi to make personal contributions about Accardi in the exhibition catalogue. The interview between Hans Ulrich Obrist and Carla published on that occasion has been newly translated from the French and reprinted in *Carla Accardi: Sicofoil* in its original length.

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Born in Trapani, Sicily, but Rome-based for most of her life, **Carla Accardi** (1924 – 2014) is today acknowledged among Italy's most important post-war artists. Over the course of a rigorous, poetic and conceptually informed career lasting nearly seven decades, Accardi developed a radical and sophisticated painterly syntax in which the formal and conceptual elements of style were made to embrace rather than conflict. Her paintings and extraordinary environments made using sicofoil, a flexible, translucent plastic developed during Italy's post-war industrial renaissance, were begun in 1965 and have since become the artist's most iconic works.

**M&L Fine Art**, the London outpost of Matteo Lampertico Arte Antica e Moderna, was founded in 15 Old Bond Street in 2015. The gallery specialises in Modern and Contemporary art, with a focus on distinctive and historically relevant works by Italian artists. Featured artists in past group and solo exhibitions include Carla Accardi, Alighiero Boetti, Agostino Bonalumi, Antonio Calderara, Enrico Castellani, Dadamaino, Max Ernst, Tano Festa, Lucio Fontana, Leoncillo Leonardi, Piero Manzoni, Aldo Mondino, Giorgio Morandi, Giulio Paolini, Emilio Prini, Angelo Savelli and Salvatore Scarpitta, among others.

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