

ARMAN

From October 5 to December 6, 2019

Opening: October 4 2019, at 5.30pm

Milan, Tornabuoni Arte

Via Fatebenefratelli 34-36

More information: www.studioesseci.net

Press Release

Tornabuoni Arte dedicates the autumn exhibition, from 5 October to 6 December 2019 in its Milanese headquarters, to Arman, one of the most famous and appreciated exponents of the *Nouveau Réalisme*, whose works, characterized by a strong environmental aspect, are perhaps more current now than they were at the time of their creation.

A monographic exhibition, which chooses to follow the artist's entire production, from the early 1950s onwards.

The selected works aim to give an all-round idea of Arman's poetry, which observed reality from its industrial and urban side, highlighting all its possible contradictions.

The show begins with the *Accumulations* of 1953 and reaches the famous *Sliced musical instruments*, in a path that is in perfect harmony with contemporary society. Arman firmly believed in the principle of accumulation, and his glass boxes filled with garbage (dust, wires, boxes of cheese etc.) bring visitors back to everyday environmental problems, first and foremost the waste emergency.

With an irreverent and provocative intent, Arman's accumulations may seem confusing, but on closer inspection they show that they are a perfectly controlled whole, the result of an understanding of the way in which we observe the world around us.

"With his accumulations, Arman tries to capture the essence and give solidity to what surrounds him" writes the art historian Rachele Ferrario in the introductory text to the catalog.

In Arman the idea of accumulation becomes all the more controlled the more we witness its artistic growth. From sets of objects of various kinds he then passes on to stacking objects that are identical to each other, differentiated only by a small detail. "Telephones, caps, tubes of paint differs one from the other for a variation, a minimal detail or inclination and, for this reason, the loved

furnishings, and the lists are condemned to remain heterogeneous and never given at once" continues Rachele Ferrario.

She adds: "Trying to rationalise the world in a list of "diverse beauties" is pure madness, it has to do with the desire to alter the matter. But it is an inherent characteristic of the society of the past century, when the mass media will arise, with the shop windows that inspired poets, philosophers and artists from de Chirico to the Surrealists, from the Neo-Dada to the Pop Art".

Arman's poetics therefore has a binary development over time. If on the one hand we find the *Accumulations*, on the other we find exhibited his signature Fragmentations. A risky choice, which goes a bit in contrast with the idea of accumulation. But Arman himself will give an explanation of this, saying: "I believe that in the desire of accumulating lies a need of security; in destroying and cutting, instead, lies the will to stop time".

An idea of materialism and crystallization, therefore, runs parallel within the exhibition. One aspect does not exclude the other, and indeed can be considered complementary in everyday life. Two sides of the same coin, which allow the viewer to open their eyes on contemporary society, in a path of reflection and awareness.

Tornabuoni Arte, Via Fatebenefratelli 34/36, Milan - 20121

Phone number: +39 02.6554841

milano@tornabuoniarte.it

Opening hours:

Monday 3.00 pm – 7.30 pm

Tuesday - Saturday 10.00 am – 1.00 pm / 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Press Office

Studio ESSECI di Sergio Campagnolo

Phone number: 0039 049663499

Referent: Elena Di Stasio, gestione4@studioesseci.net