

**PRESS RELEASE**



# L'ULTIMA CENA DOPO LEONARDO

## THE LAST SUPPER AFTER LEONARDO

ANISH KAPOOR • ROBERT LONGO • MASBEDO • NICOLA SAMORÌ • WANG GUANGYI • YUE MINJUN

*From April 2 to June 30, 2019, at Milan's Fondazione Stelline  
six leading international artists take on Leonardo's Last Supper*

[Milan, March 8, 2019] In commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, the Fondazione Stelline has designed and brought to life a large international exhibition entitled ***The Last Supper after Leonardo***, which will be held between **April 2 and June 30, 2019**. The exhibit will feature six key figures from the contemporary art scene: **Anish Kapoor, Robert Longo, Masbedo, Nicola Samorì, Wang Guangyi and Yue Minjun**. The exhibition, put on by the Foundation and curated by Demetrio Paparoni, one of Italy's most renowned critics and curators, is part of **Milano e Leonardo 500**, an institutional program of events including initiatives and projects celebrating the work and mind of Leonardo on the fifth centenary of his death, and will be the opening event of **Milano Art Week 2019** (April 1 – 7).

**Six major international artists**, from different cultural traditions, have revisited **the theme of *The Last Supper*** based on Leonardo's depiction, making it one of the noblest expressions of our culture in an original dialogue between East and West.

***The Last Supper after Leonardo*** aims to emphasize **how Leonardo's work continues to influence contemporary art**. In addition to *The Last Supper* by Wang Guangyi, which has never been displayed in the Western world, this exhibition includes specially created works by Robert Longo, Nicola Samorì and Yue Minjun, a video by Masbedo which focuses on the hands that restored the original work and an homage to Leonardo's masterpiece by Anish Kapoor.

«The Fondazione Stelline has a strong tie to the Renaissance genius», explains president PierCarla Delipano, «also thanks to Andy Warhol, who created his last series *The Last Supper* specifically for the Stelline, where he displayed it in the famous 1987 exhibition in honor of Leonardo's *Last Supper*, held in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, in front of the foundation's headquarters. It, therefore, seemed only natural to relaunch this challenge, on the occasion of the celebration of 500 years since the master's death, to six important international artists. An important and ambitious project, *The Last Supper after Leonardo* is a significant homage to the contemporaneity of Leonardo, as evidenced by the works of Anish Kapoor, Robert Longo, Masbedo, Nicola Samorì, Wang Guangyi and Yue Minjun.

A CURA DI DEMETRIO PAPARONI 2 APRILE – 30 GIUGNO 2019 FONDAZIONE STELLINE, MILANO

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This exhibit, which is original in its conception and international in scope, is the Fondazione Stelline's contribution to Leonardo, a world-class icon of art, beauty and genius. It is a symbol of our magnificent Italy; of a Milan that is increasingly open to cultural contamination and of a hard-working and illustrious Lombardia».

An ingenious and multifaceted figure, Leonardo's mind and work inspire new languages to be developed and classic subject matter to be approached in an innovative manner. As the curator Demetrio Paparoni notes, the exhibiting artists respond to precise criteria: **Anish Kapoor** is the artist who most embodies the Leonardesque spirit, centering his research on the relationship between art and science, between disappearance and appearance of form; **Robert Longo** is an American artist who has taken a modern spin on the reinterpretation of past masterpieces, turning them into expressions of the present. Making the biological death of painting a palpable theme, Nicola Samorì faces the narration of classic works and charges them with new meaning; multimedia artists **Masbedo** focus their attention on the hands of Pinin Brambilla Barcion, the restorer who managed to save *The Last Supper* through more than 22 years of her continuous and uninterrupted work. **Yue Minjun** explores the theme of mental confusion through the impenetrability of the sacred image; in a large polyptych measuring 16 meters, which is the most important representation of *The Last Supper* created in recent times in China and never before displayed in the Western world, **Wang Guangyi** overlaps Leonardesque iconography, landscape and the traditional Chinese pictorial technique *Wu Lou Hen*.

The dismemberment of the "sacred body" of Leonardo's Last Supper by artists in search of the mysteries enclosed within this large mural painting provides us with infinite revelations, **as demonstrated by the exhibited works and the numerous examples imparted in the exhibit catalogue** (Skira Editore, 24x28 cm, 168 pages, price on cover: € 29,00).

The extensive critical examinations of the works by artists who turned to the painting located in Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan— Salvador Dalí, Shusaku Arakawa, Mary Beth Edelson, Marlen Dumas, Andy Warhol, Andres Serrano, Vik Muniz, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Zhang Huan, Zeng Fanzhi, Wang Guangyi, Yue Minjun, Robert Longo, Anish Kapoor, Masbedo and Nicola Samorì—and the unpublished interviews with the artists of the exhibition make this book a document on the generative ability of Leonardo's work. **Interviews conducted by Maria Cannarella, Marta Gnyp, Alessandra Klimciuk and Richard Milazzo.**

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During the exhibition **guided tours** will be offered, the details of which will be forthcoming and can also be found on the website [www.stelline.it](http://www.stelline.it)

The first visits will begin with **Milano Art Week** when, from April 2 to 7, the exhibition can be visited for a **reduced entrance fee of 6 euros**. On this occasion, on Saturday April 6, from 5pm to 7pm, there will be **four free guided tours** (separate from the special ticket for Milano Art Week).

### THE LAST SUPPER AFTER LEONARDO

curated by Demetrio Paparoni

**2 April – 30 June 2019**

Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10am-8pm (closed Mondays)

Entrance fee: € 8 full; € 6 reduced

(last entrance one hour before closing)

Tickets online: <http://bit.ly/vivaticketprevendita>

Skira Catalogue (24x28 cm, 168 pages): € 29,00

Fondazione Stelline, c.so Magenta 61, Milano

Info: [fondazione@stelline.it](mailto:fondazione@stelline.it) | [www.stelline.it](http://www.stelline.it)

**ARTWEEK** (April 1-7 2019)

**Special Ticket € 6**

**Saturday, April 6, 5pm- 7pm** 4 free guided tours (separate from the special Milano Art Week ticket)

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