



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DI SAN LUCA

EXHIBITION

# GIOVANNI ANSELMO

## *Entrare nell'opera*

**Press preview:** Tuesday 12th November 2019, 11.00am

**Opening:** Tuesday 12th November 2019, 6.00pm

**Exhibition dates:** 13th November 2019 – 1st February 2020

Palazzo Carpegna

Piazza dell'Accademia di San Luca 77, Rome

### PRESS RELEASE

In celebration of the awarding of the **Premio Presidente della Repubblica 2016 for sculpture** to **Giovanni Anselmo** (Borgofranco d'Ivrea, 1934), the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca is dedicating an exhibition to the Turin-based artist's work, in the form of a retrospective entitled *Giovanni Anselmo. Entrare nell'opera*, celebrating a career that has spanned over fifty years.

The exhibition will be open to the public **from 13th November 2019 to 1st February 2020**.

The prestigious prize awarded by the President of the Italian Republic was established by the then President, Luigi Einaudi, in October 1948, and has always been assigned to figures who have achieved exceptional merit in the fields of science, art and music. Italy's three National Academies (the Accademia dei Lincei, the Accademia di San Luca and the Accademia di Santa Cecilia) are responsible for nominating each year's recipients. In the case of the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, the membership's three categories, Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, take it in turns to make the nomination.

To celebrate the awarding of the 2016 **Premio Presidente della Repubblica** to Giovanni Anselmo, **the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca has invited the artist to retrace the route his work and story have taken, via a specially conceived exhibition of his work, running through the interconnected rooms of Palazzo Carpegna.**

Giovanni Anselmo's artistic career has followed a path as unswerving as it is unusual: a leading exponent of the Arte Povera movement, Anselmo never went to art school. Towards the end of the 1950s, he began work as a graphic designer at an advertising agency, at the same time refining his skills as a painter. In the mid 1960s he abandoned his experiments with painting in order to focus on the first of his works featuring lines under tension – in this case iron rods which, as becomes apparent as soon as anything comes into near contact with them, are intimately affected by gravitational forces. From that point onwards, energy, positioning in space, the part representing a whole, and the tension between opposing forces as a vehicle expression, all become leitmotifs in his work. Concept and physical content are combined, in a non-narrative union, along with the finite and the infinite, the visible and the invisible, in an unfailingly poetic form of experience which is never rhetorical and candidly human.

Visitors to the exhibition will encounter **27 artworks, selected by the artist**, who considers them some of the most significant he has produced. Many of them large in scale, the works on show range from pieces made in late 1960s to recent works, and are, here, on loan from his personal collection and from some of Italy's most important museums, galleries and private art collections, including the Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, the GAM in Turin and the MART in Rovereto.

Anselmo's installations employ a wide variety of contrasting materials, from the iron and fabric of *Torsione* (1968), to the sea sponge of *Respiro* (1969), the photographic prints on canvas of *Entrare nell'opera* (1971), the stone and steel cables of *Verso Oltremare* (1984), and the soil and compass needle of *Mentre la terra si orienta* (1967/2019). Manifest in all of this is an attention towards the physical reality of things and their inherent specificities, and an energy that has the potential to reverberate and, in doing so, become a poetic fact which anticipates the possibility of art embracing everything.

**FOR PHOTOS AND OTHER MATERIAL:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6cnnzpte5pmyi6z/AAAHDJ8ZqWYuG\\_hccZVzIqaUa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6cnnzpte5pmyi6z/AAAHDJ8ZqWYuG_hccZVzIqaUa?dl=0)

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**Venue:** Accademia Nazionale di San Luca, Piazza dell'Accademia di San Luca 77 – Rome

**For further information:** tel. 06 679 0324; presidenza@accademiasanluca.it

**Opening times:** Monday to Saturday: 10.00 - 19.00 (last admission 18.30).

Closed to the public on Sundays and bank holidays.

The exhibition will be closed on 24th December. On 31st December opening hours will be reduced (info: [www.accademiasanluca.eu/it](http://www.accademiasanluca.eu/it)).

**Admission to the exhibition is  
free of charge**

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