

# LÉVY GORVY

## LÉVY GORVY TO PRESENT MAJOR EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO MICHELANGELO PISTOLETTO IN COLLABORATION WITH GALLERIA CONTINUA

### Michelangelo Pistoletto

October 14, 2020–January 9, 2021

Lévy Gorvy  
909 Madison Avenue  
New York

*The picture has exited the frame, the statue has descended from the plinth. Since then, my work—that is, the aesthetic act—has begun to melt into the spaces of life itself.*

—Michelangelo Pistoletto<sup>i</sup>

**New York**—Lévy Gorvy is pleased to announce a major exhibition of works by the renowned Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto. The first US presentation in a decade to feature multiple installations by Pistoletto, it will take visitors on a journey through one of the most influential and enduring artistic practices to unfold from the postwar period to the present. Lévy Gorvy's exhibition will resonate with the themes that have animated Pistoletto's body of work for over six decades: perception, time, history, tradition, and the relationship between art, artist, and viewer.

Designed by the artist specifically for the gallery's New York space, Michelangelo Pistoletto's exhibition is organized in collaboration with Galleria Continua.

Upon arriving at Lévy Gorvy, visitors to the exhibition will be greeted by an installation inspired by a pairing included in *One and One Makes Three*, Pistoletto's 2017 retrospective at the Basilica di San Giorgio Maggiore during the Venice Biennale. Featuring the artist's signature use of mirrors, the grouping at Lévy Gorvy includes Pistoletto's historic *Viceversa* (1971) and the recent *Color and Light* (2016–17). Together these works create a dynamic, constantly metamorphosing environment and dramatizing the contrast between the fixity of the past and the ever-changing nature of the present.

*The mirror tells the truth about everything that exists. Why does it tell the truth? Because it cannot lie. Whatever we see inside the mirror inevitably corresponds to what is happening in front of it.*  
—Michelangelo Pistoletto<sup>ii</sup>



*Viceversa*, 1971. Mirror, gilded wood frame, and wood easel, 98 7/16 x 35 5/8 x 19 11/16 inches (250 x 90.5 x 50 cm).



*Spazio Libero*, conceived 1976 / fabricated 2020. Steel, 1101/4 x 1413/4 x 1413/4 inches (280 x 360 x 360 cm). The first English version of this sculpture, *The Free Space*, is in production and will be on view for the first time in Lévy Gorvy's 2020 exhibition.

The second floor of the exhibition is dominated by a cage-like structure defined by steel bars. Empty and inaccessible to the viewer, this installation is titled with words that are spelled out around its perimeter: *The Free Space* (1976–2020). The first and only English-language version of *Spazio Libero*—a work that Pistoletto conceived in 1976 and realized in 1999 with inmates in Milan's San Vittore prison—*The Free Space* provokes reflections on freedom, imprisonment, and the real but often hidden boundaries of society.

*space that implies the concept of freedom of thought, which is the truest possession of liberty.* —Michelangelo Pistoletto<sup>iii</sup>

*Spazio Libero is a free space inside prison—a mental space, a behavioral space, a virtual*

The exhibition's top floor will be entirely occupied by *Porte Uffizi* (1994–2020)—a unique, newly realized version of a seminal installation by Pistoletto, comprised of an open-timber architectural structure of subdivided chambers, each labeled with a single word such as Economy, Science, and Spirituality. Major works by Pistoletto will be installed within each chamber, illustrating Pistoletto's belief that art should unite with other aspects of society.



*Porte Uffizi*, conceived 1995 / fabricated 2020. Black paint and wood, 1101/4 x 263 x 5031/4 inches (280 x 668 x 1278.3 cm). A new version of *Porte Uffizi* is in production and will be on view in Lévy Gorvy's 2020 exhibition.

*If contemporary art led the artist to the greatest freedom, it also led him to the greatest responsibility.* —Michelangelo Pistoletto<sup>iv</sup>

In conjunction with the artist, Lévy Gorvy will be collaborating with Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto to further his Third Paradise initiative. Embodied by a symbol that Pistoletto uses to signify a balanced connection between artifice and nature, his foundation is devoted to realizing this balance through principles of democratic praxis (Demopraxy) and ecological sustainability. The organization conducts programs globally that build bridges between local communities and organizations, promoting new perspectives of thought and action in an extension of Pistoletto's abiding commitment to humanist ideals.

### About the Artist

Retrospectives of Pistoletto's work have been exhibited at Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (2000); and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (2010–11). He has exhibited extensively across the world since the 1960s, with one-artist exhibitions held at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1966); Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York (1969); Palazzo Grassi, Venice (1976); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (1969); Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (1978); P.S.1 Museum, New York (1988); Kunsthalle Bern (1989; traveled to Wiener Secession, 1990); Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome (1990); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (1994); Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna (1995); Promotrice delle Belle Arte and

Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin (2000–01); Serpentine Gallery, London (2011); Louvre, Paris (2013); and Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana (2016–17). In 2017, Pistoletto's work was featured in *One and One Makes Three*, a collateral event of the 57th Venice Biennale at the Basilica di San Giorgio Maggiore (2017). Pistoletto toured South America in 2018, with exhibitions at Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago de Chile; and Museo de Arte Italiano, Lima, Peru; and *Circuito Pistoletto* as part of BIENALSUR 2019 in Buenos Aires. Pistoletto has participated in thirteen editions of the Venice Biennale and four of Documenta, Kassel.

Among other honors, Pistoletto was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale in 2003. His work can be found in the collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Dallas Museum of Art; Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Magazzino Italian Art, Cold Spring, New York; Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo (MAXXI), Rome; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. The artist lives and works in Biella, Italy.

### **About Lévy Gorvy**

Lévy Gorvy cultivates a program devoted to innovation and connoisseurship in the fields of postwar and contemporary art. Founded by Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy, Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces at 909 Madison Avenue in New York, in Mayfair, London, in Central, Hong Kong, and in the Marais, Paris. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists' estates that it represents and offers a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events, including a poetry program commissioning notable contemporary poets. The gallery produces ongoing art-historical research and original scholarship, publishing exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications. Lévy Gorvy also offers bespoke private advisory and consulting services to collectors around the world.

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<sup>i</sup> Michelangelo Pistoletto, "Art's Responsibility," 1994

<sup>ii</sup> Pistoletto, in conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist, 2018

<sup>iii</sup> Pistoletto, in conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist, 2019

<sup>iv</sup> Pistoletto, in conversation with Hans Ulrich Obrist, 2018