

## **MEMPHIS - PLASTIC FIELD**

**Fondazione Berengo – Palazzo Franchetti**

**San Marco 2847, 30124 Venezia**

**Curated by Jean Blanchaert and Adriano Berengo**

**24 May – 25 November 2018**

**Open everyday, from 10am to 6:30pm**

**Tickets: regular price 10 € reduced price 8 €**

From May 24<sup>th</sup> to November 25<sup>th</sup> during the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Biennale Architettura, Venice-headquartered Fondazione Berengo is hosting “MEMPHIS - Plastic Field” at Palazzo Franchetti, an exhibition of Memphis group’s design works curated by Jean Blanchaert and Adriano Berengo, friends and collaborators since over fifteen years.

Press preview will take place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> between 10 am to 4 pm.

Just like in the early ‘80s when the design group challenged the minimalist trend with a multi-coloured, pop art-inspired style with a provocative soul, this time Memphis’ iconic works will stand out in contrast with Palazzo Franchetti’s historical backcloth. As a frame for the exhibition, a field of black leaves and plants is set to fade out any surrounding colour and let the visitors’ attention focus on the bold and daring range of tones and shapes which allowed architect Ettore Sottsass to leave an unforgettable mark in the global design scene of his time, together with the other co-founders of the movement.

The exhibition presents a selection of contemporary productions of the group’s most renowned works in their original design created during the 1981-1987 period. Alongside Sottsass’ masterpieces, “Plastic Field” will offer the chance for visitors to enjoy the design works signed by Zanini, De Lucchi, Zanuso Jr, Bley, Bedin, Mendini, Mariscal, Kuramata, Cibic, Graves and Iosa Ghini, as well as the ceramics crafted by Thun, Taylor, Umeda, Sowden and Sanchez, silverworks by Shire and Branzi and carpets by Du Pasquier.

Memphis’ innate irreverence shines through the exhibition’s structure as well, whose set-up by IB Studio (Milan) reshape Palazzo Franchetti’s map through Carlton’s geometrical skeleton, Sottsass’ 1981 iconic room divider that incarnates the postmodernist soul of his maker.

A thematic room is set to celebrate the impactful shapes and chromatic range of Memphis’ glassworks and to express Fondazione Berengo’s commitment in promoting the elegance and versatility of Murano’s glassmaking. Starting from 1989, Berengo Studio offers a top-class furnace for architects, artists and designers for the exploration this exquisite art medium. Thanks to the Glasstress project, the Studio has established itself as a synonym of glasswork for contemporary art.

Futhermore, a 24 feet tall golden cage is ready to occupy Palazzo Franchetti’s courtyard and to stay throughout the exhibition period. “Gilded Cage” by Ai Weiwei is one of the Chinese artist-activist’s newest and most impactful urban installations, appearing last fall in New York’s Central Park as part of the public artwork series titled “Good Fences make Good Neighbors”, conceived as a campaign to raise awareness on the global refugees issue.

## MEMPHIS - PLASTIC FIELD | PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Ettore Sottsass, Martine Bedin, Thomas Bley, Andrea Branzi, Aldo Cibic, Michele de Lucchi, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Michael Graves, Massimo Iosa Ghini, Shiro Kuramata, Javier Mariscal, Alessandro Mendini, Maria Sanchez, Peter Shire, George Sowden, Gerard Taylor, Matteo Thun, Masanori Umeda, Marco Zanini, Marco Zanuso Jr.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### **Memphis**

Founded by Ettore Sottsass and a group of young architects and designers who worked with him, Memphis group was created as a workshop for the development of new ideas in design. Active from 1981 to 1987, it rapidly became a cultural phenomenon, revolutionising the global design scene of the time.

Società Memphis, owned by Mr. Alberto Bianchi Albrici, still produces the group's original works.

### **Fondazione Berengo**

Established in 2014 as an institutional representative of Adriano Berengo's thirty-year project: introducing Murano's glassworks to the contemporary art scene, revitalising and innovating the thousand-year old glassmaking tradition of the Venetian island. This mission is carried on through the Glasstress project, which gathers contemporary artists at Berengo Studio since 2009 in order to craft glass sculptures and present them at Palazzo Franchetti every two years.

### **Jean Blanchaert**

Mr. Blanchaert is a curator, art critic and gallerist since over thirty years. Galleria Blanchaert was founded in 1957 and specializes on traditional materials (glass, ceramic, iron, marble, wood, glaze, textile) as well as contemporary ones (plastic). Alongside editorial and curatorship activities, Mr. Blanchaert is also a calligrapher, illustrator and glass sculptor.

### **IB Studio**

In 1980 Isabella Invernizzi sets up Isabella Invernizzi Architecture Workshop after collaborating with Marco Zanuso. The Milan-based office specialized in prestigious renovation jobs. In 2009 Beatrice Bonzanigo began her collaboration with the studio, contributing to the firm with her humanistic design culture, inspired by the teachings of minimal architects such

as Peter Zumthor, Manuel & Francisco Aires Mateus and Valerio Olgiati. IB Studio was then founded in 2014.