

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2018
SKY ARTE HD
BROADCASTING OF THE DOCUMENTARY
AGOSTINO BONALUMI
L'intelligenza dei materiali

Produced by Archivio Bonalumi and Zenit Arti Audiovisive

On Tuesday 18 September 2018, Sky Arte HD will broadcast the documentary *AGOSTINO BONALUMI. L'intelligenza dei materiali*, produced by Archivio Bonalumi and Zenit Arti Audiovisive, directed by Fabrizio Galatea with historical-artistic curation by Francesca Pola.

The documentary (duration 60') traces the innovative artistic career of this protagonist of Post-War Italian art. The film is an exploration of Bonalumi's artistic experimentation, the story of which runs in parallel with the Italian economic miracle of the 1960s; technological evolution and the discovery of new materials of domestic mass consumption (plastics, rubber, metals); the Milan of the Brera quarter, Lucio Fontana and Piero Manzoni with its focus on the legendary Bar Giamaica; the popular success of the Triennale and the expansion of painting into architecture, design, sculpture and theatre; Italian artists venturing to New York and the relationship with European and American experimentation.

The narrative core of the film is Bonalumi's last interview, conducted a few months before his death in 2013, which constitutes invaluable and irreplaceable testimony to his poetic and theoretical depth. It is interweaved with the voices of friends, family and colleagues who knew and frequented him, accompanying him in his artistic career; his sons Fabrizio and Pierenrico Bonalumi, the gallerists Arturo Schwarz, Fernanda Bonino and Davide Mazzoleni, the writer and artist Nanni Balestrini, the critics Gillo Dorfles, Luciano Caramel, Tommaso Trini and Luca Massimo Barbero, the photographer Uliano Lucas, his friend Franca Scheggi, the collector Gabriele Orioli. The narration is completed with an extensive documentary and audio-visual apparatus, the fruit of extensive research rooted in the Archivio Bonalumi.

Bonalumi was born in Vimercate in 1935, he completed studies in mechanical engineering and approached the art world at a time when Milan became one of the capitals of European culture, a symbol of economic boom and social and lifestyle changes in Italy. This was the Milan of "Rocco e suoi fratelli" (Rocco and his brothers), but also the Milan of Lucio Fontana and a series of up-and-coming young gallerists who changed the way of conceiving and selling art, the Milan of the Triennali and the great trade fairs for the general public where they could see the first juke boxes and tape recorders, white goods and new technological innovations. A Milan in which culture (music, film, art and literature) was programmed and invented in the trattorias and bars, where young artists blended with the local people. It was within this context that in the late Fifties, Bonalumi met another two young artists, Piero Manzoni and Enrico Castellani who were to be companions of adventure in his first creative experiences and with whom he was to develop a new way of thinking about art, exploring and developing the path traced by masters such as Lucio Fontana and Enrico Baj. This was the birth of the painting object, in the definition coined by the critic Gillo Dorfles, which opened a new frontier in art, going beyond the informal to create new European painting. From this point, Bonalumi became one of the most rigorous and innovative Italian experimenters who extended his artistic research into the dialogue with architecture in his large-scale environmental inventions from the second half of the Sixties.

The film examines Bonalumi's artistic career through the social and cultural context in which he lived, showing how closely the art was linked to the contemporary and an only apparently distant popular milieu. More than a biographical account of a period in our recent history, this is also an original means of understanding changes in taste and perception that took place in contemporary Italy from the 1960s.

AGOSTINO BONALUMI. *L'intelligenza dei materiali*, Sky Arte HD, Tuesday 18 September 2018