

PRESS RELEASE

RODOLFO ARICÒ: LINE OF DEMARCATION

Private View: 4 October 2016, 6-8pm
Exhibition Dates: 5 October – 17 December 2016
Panel Discussion: 6 October, 5pm onwards



Rodolfo Aricò, *Assonometria*, 1968. Oil on canvas. 90 x 200 cm.
Private Collection, courtesy of Luxembourg & Dayan.

Luxembourg & Dayan is delighted to present the first major UK exhibition of the Italian artist Rodolfo Aricò (1930–2002). Focusing on works from the 1960s and 1970s, the exhibition derives its title – *Rodolfo Aricò: Line of Demarcation* – from the writings of the Italian critic Giulio Carlo Argan, aiming to emphasise the importance of Rodolfo Aricò both in the historical context of Post-War Italian art, as well as a crucial link in the dialogue between American and European artistic tendencies during these decades.

Rodolfo Aricò is known primarily for his 'object-paintings', which he began to develop during the 1960s and which evolved throughout his entire career. Trained in Architecture, his works manifest a philosophical interest in the notions of time and space, exploring geometry, perspective, and phenomenology, hereby undermining the rigid distinction between the disciplines of painting and sculpture. Aricò is known to have been a fervent reader of philosophy and a talented writer in his own right. He was particularly influenced by the writings of Edmund Husserl on Phenomenology and Jean-Paul Sartre's Existentialist thought. Throughout his entire career Aricò was engaged in a continuous dialogue with the history of perspective, its relation to ideology, and its potential role in art of his own time. In a similar way to his American contemporaries,

Aricò was interested by the idea of shifting the main focus of attention in his work from the object of display to the relationship between the object and the perceiving subject. In order to do so, he drew on his professional formation and employed different architectural methodologies in his paintings that challenge the pictorial space. Aricò's object-paintings invite the viewer to engage in an immersive experience, one that no longer shows an object in perspective but functions as perspective in its own right.

In his catalogue essay for Aricò's 1967 exhibition at the renowned Galleria L'Attico in Rome, Giulio Carlo Argan noted that Aricò is exploring "the boundary between object and image. What he would like to obtain is not the diverse consistency of the two fields but the line of demarcation, the critical point of passage from the state of the object to the state of the image and the contrary". And indeed, the works of Rodolfo Aricò challenge the very deceiving mechanisms that they set up. They invite the viewer to reside literally as well as metaphorically on the line of demarcation between depth and flatness, image and object. But perhaps most importantly in our contemporary context,

these works encourage us to overcome the limiting historical and geographical categories through which we interpret much of the work produced both by his American and his European contemporaries, transforming the line that distinguishes the two currents into that which binds them together.

The exhibition 'Rodolfo Aricò: Line of Demarcation' is organised with the support of the Archivio Rodolfo Aricò. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with new essays by Claire Gilman, curator at the Drawing Center, New York, Alex Bacon, writer and PhD candidate at Princeton University, and Francesca Pola, art-historian and curator of the Archivio Rodolfo Aricò.



Rodolfo Aricò, *Senza Titolo*, 1967. Oil on canvas. 80 x 60cm.
Private Collection, courtesy of Luxembourg & Dayan.



Exhibition view, Deson-Zaks, Chicago, 1969.



Rodolfo Aricò, Milan, 1969.

LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

RODOLFO ARICÒ

Rodolfo Aricò was born in Milan on 3 June 1930. He graduated from the Architecture department at the Milan Polytechnic in 1956 and began to exhibit his paintings internationally already by the early 1960s. In the following years Aricò displayed his work at the Salone Annunciata in Milan, Galleria L'Attico in Rome, Deson-Zaks gallery in Chicago, and the Venice Biennial (1964, 1968, 1980, 1986) among numerous other platforms. His works can be found today in various private and public collections including the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Cagliari; MART, Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto; VAF-Stiftung Collection, Frankfurt am Main; and the Guggenheim Collection, Venice. Aricò died in Milan on 22 June 2002. A series of exhibitions was held in the decade to follow marking the importance of his legacy, including a large solo exhibition in 2013 at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. The exhibition *Rodolfo Aricò: Line of Demarcation* at Luxembourg & Dayan is the first large-scale solo exhibition of Aricò's works in the UK.

FORMLESS RE-EXAMINED FRIEZE MASTERS 2016 - STAND D 07

For this year's display at Frieze Masters, Luxembourg & Dayan celebrates the famous exhibition *L'Informe: mode d'emploi* that was organised by Yves Alain Bois and Rosalind Krauss at the Centre Georges Pompidou in 1996. Twenty years on, we re-examine this inspirational exhibition — monumental in scale and art-historical significance — through a presentation of these modern masters whose work challenged the conventions of form and pictorial representation. *L'Informe* sought to dismantle entrenched art historical categories, by uniting a diverse selection of works: from firebrand iconoclasts such as Duchamp and Picasso, through to the post-war generation of artists Arman, Fontana, Manzoni, Rauschenberg, Twombly and Warhol, whose work furthered the formal and conceptual transgressions that emerged earlier in the century. *Formless Re-Examined* is the latest in a series of historical restagings organised by Luxembourg & Dayan, following *The Shaped Canvas: Revisited* (New York, 2014) and *Microsalon: an homage to Iris Clert* (Frieze Masters, London, 2015).

LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

Luxembourg & Dayan presents curated, museum-quality exhibitions of works by modern and contemporary artists across gallery spaces in New York and London. Since opening in 2009, Luxembourg & Dayan has held a number of critically-acclaimed exhibitions, ranging from historical surveys of artists, such as Alberto Giacometti, Alberto Burri and Domenico Gnoli, to thematic shows including *Word by Word*, *Thick Paint* and *Grisaille*. Recent exhibitions in London include *Alighiero Boetti: A Private Collection*, *Alberto Giacometti: In His Own Words (Sculptures 1925-1934)* and the group exhibition *Melodrama*.

Luxembourg & Dayan is open Tuesday to Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday 12pm-4pm and further by appointment during Frieze week. For more information please contact: london@luxembourgdayan.com; for further press information and to request images please contact: gair@picklespr.com and helena@picklespr.com.