



PRESS RELEASE

Nanda Vigo, incontri ravvicinati

Arte, Architettura, Design

in collaboration with Archivio Nanda Vigo, Luca Preti and Glas Italia

Opening

Saturday, September 4th 2021
3.00 am – 9.00 pm

on view

from September 5th to November 1st, 2021
Every day, 10.30AM – 7.30PM
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10.30AM – 9PM
Booking on www.fondazioneozzani.org
Admission fee € 6.00 Reduced € 3.00 (6-26 years)

Special Opening Salone del Mobile 2021
5 – 10 September, ore 10.30 am – 9.00 pm

*The exhibition opens to the public in keeping with all health and safety measures.
Masks are mandatory.*



The Fondazione Sozzani presents the exhibition “Nanda Vigo, incontri ravvicinati - *close encounters* Art, Architecture, Design” in collaboration with Archivio Nanda Vigo, Luca Preti and Glas Italia.

Lively and curious, Nanda Vigo (Milan, 1936 - 2020) was an architect, artist and designer: a leading figure of the Milanese and European cultural context in the 1960s, yet her own vision clearly aimed at the future – almost a spatial future, even in the 2000s.

The exhibition is divided into three sections dedicated to as many distinct but intertwined areas, with rare prototypes and unique pieces. Through her art, architecture and design, the exhibition is a journey through space and time, where each work inhabits a unique environment and is faced with space, time, and light.

The first area presents Nanda Vigo as a “master of light”, with one of her most famous artworks: the “Ambiente cronotopico” (“Chronotopic Environment”) of 1968. Her “*Ambiente cronotopico*”, bright and transparent, reflects the theme she explored with Lucio Fontana in collaborative works from 1964-1968. It represents the immersive idea of light as a journey. A metal structure with sheets of transparent industrial glass: the light is the element that unifies time (*chrono*) and space (*topical*). “*What am I inspired by? By the light. Light is crucial for shapes, for objects, for a total setting. Light goes and has no dimension, and makes you travel so far... ..*”¹

The second section is focused on architecture, through some historical pieces. Vigo’s collaborations with Gio Ponti began earlier. Together they created the project of the house “Scarabeo sotto la Foglia” in Malo (Vicenza, from 1958 to 1968), where the center is represented by a nuptial bed, as a primal hall in the “Genesis”. The first of her immersive architectures, the “ZERO House” in Milan (1959-1962), is a house of light with inner frosted glass walls, whose system of colored neon lights alter the common perception of space, as in the projects of the Casa Blu (Milano, 1967-71), Gialla (Milano, 1970-1971) e Nera (Milano, 1970).

The third area reflects the complexity of Nanda Vigo’s research as a designer: from her famous mirrors, to “Due Più” chairs (1971) whose surprising furs transform a normal chair into an intergalactic spacecraft’s command chair. The journey through her time and space is brought to completion by the light games, from the historic “Golden Gate” lamp up to the Hard & Soft collection, the last complete collection created as an immersive environment in 2019. Reflecting on her career, Vigo said: “*I was following the vision of the great Gio Ponti; he approached spaces in a global way, from the small spoons to the art. I always saw architecture, design, and art together as one in my projects.*”

On the occasion of the exhibition, Glas Italia, the company historically linked to Nanda Vigo, has re-edited the table and mirror of the Andromeda series.

¹ Nowness video interview, 2020



Born in Milan on November 14, 1936, Nanda Vigo had nurtured her passion for art since she was seven years old and witnessed the way light affected the form of Giuseppe Terragni's Casa del Fascio in Como. She studied architecture at the Institut Polytechnique in Lausanne and went on to hold apprenticeships in San Francisco at the Frank Lloyd Wright studio.

In 1959 she returned to Milan, where she embarked on several journeys across Europe, befriending some of the most revolutionary young artists of the time, from the German Zero Group to the Dutch Nul Group, to the Nouveau Réalisme to the Fluxus. Nanda Vigo catalyzed some of the best art forces that converged in the cultural fervor of the Jamaica bar and in the Azimut gallery of Piero Manzoni and Enrico Castellani in Milan. In 1965 Nanda Vigo was the one to curate the first Zero exhibition in Italy in the studio of Lucio Fontana, her mentor since the beginning. With the same attitude she organized in 2011 the first ZERO exhibition in Moscow at the MAMM Museum, Moscow Multimedia Art Museum.

She worked as an architect on projects such as the cemetery in Rozzano, where she designed twin, twenty-story skyscrapers, and the Zero House in Milan. She opened her own atelier in the city in 1959.

Vigo was featured in at least thirteen Zero exhibitions, including "NUL 65" at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, "Zero: An Exhibition of European Experimental Art" at the Gallery of Modern Art in Washington, DC, and "Zero avant-garde" at Fontana's Milan studio, which all took place in 1965. She received the New York Award for Industrial Design in 1971, and participated in the Fortieth Venice Biennale in 1982.

With over four hundred collective and personal exhibitions, her work is collected by the main institutions from the Museum of the Triennale in Milan to the Solomon R. Guggenheim in New York to the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin. Part of her works and collection has been donated to the San Fedele Museum in Milan. Curated by Marco Meneguzzo, "Nanda Vigo. Light Project" (2019) featured the first anthological retrospective at Palazzo Reale in Milan. She died in Milan on May 16, 2020.

Fondazione Sozzani

The Fondazione Sozzani was established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani and is dedicated to the promotion of culture through photography, fashion, the fine arts, and applied arts. The Foundation has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Galleria has supported since 1990.