



Marino Marini
(Italian, 1901 – 1980)

Biography

Marino Marini was an Italian painter and sculptor, born in the Tuscan town of Pistoia in 1901. He attended the Accademia di Belle Arti (an academy of fine arts) in Florence in 1917, where he took courses and mainly focused on painting and drawing.

Around 1922 his focus shifted, and although he never abandoned painting, Marini devoted himself primarily to sculpture. From this time his work was influenced by Etruscan art and the sculpture of Arturo Martini. Marini succeeded Martini as professor at the Scuola d'Arte di Villa Reale in Monza, near Milan, in 1929, a position he retained until 1940. During this period Marini traveled frequently to Paris, where he associated with Massimo Campigli, Giorgio de Chirico, Alberto Magnelli, and Filippo Tibertelli de Pisis. In 1936 he moved to Tenero-Locarno, in the Ticino canton, Switzerland; during the following few years the artist often visited Zurich and Basel, where he became a friend of Alberto Giacometti, Germaine Richier, and Fritz Wotruba. In 1936 he received the Prize of the Quadriennale of Rome. He accepted a professorship in sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera, Milan, in 1940, which he held until he fled to Switzerland in 1943 in the aftermath of the Second World War. When the war ended, Marino returned to Milan, where he reopened his studio and resumed his teaching.

Marini participated in Twentieth-Century Italian Art at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1949. Curt Valentin began exhibiting Marini's work at his Buchholz Gallery in New York in 1950, on which occasion the sculptor visited the city and met Jean Arp, Max Beckmann, Alexander Calder, Lyonel Feininger, and Jacques Lipchitz. On his return to Europe, he stopped in London, where the Hanover Gallery had organized a solo show of his work, and there met Henry Moore. In 1951 a Marini exhibition traveled from the Kestner-Gesellschaft Hannover to the Kunstverein in Hamburg and the Haus der Kunst of Munich. He was awarded the Grand Prize for Sculpture at the Venice Biennale in 1952 and the Feltrinelli Prize at the Accademia dei Lincei in Rome in 1954. One of his monumental sculptures was installed in the Hague in 1959.



Retrospectives of Marini's work took place at the Kunsthaus Zürich in 1962 and at the Palazzo Venezia in Rome in 1966. His paintings were exhibited for the first time at Toninelli Arte Moderna in Milan in 1963–64. In 1973 a permanent installation of his work opened at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Milan, and in 1978 a Marini show was presented at the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo. Marino Marini died on August 6, 1980, in Viareggio.

A few years later, in 1988, the Museo Marino Marini of Florence was inaugurated, following a donation of works to the Tuscan capital, a city that Marino held dear.

Artwork and technique

Marino Marini was inspired by ancient Greek and Etruscan art. From the 1930s to the '40s, Marino was researching the development and elaboration of a "pure" form, through the modernization and re-elaboration of the Etruscan and medieval tradition. The female nude, the portrait bust and horse and rider are central themes in his work.

Over the years, Marini's work continued to change, his work became more abstract, but his motifs stayed recognizable. Starting in 1943, it became possible to see signs of change in the adaptable rendering of the theme: the forms open, they become violent, full of tension. There was also a change in expressive language in Marino's paintings and in his graphic design; the color becomes brighter, fuller and shifts into a symbol. The shapes, even on the canvas, disintegrate. They do not tell, they do not describe, but they evoke.

To this day, Marini's art remains of great importance. His work is to be found in important collections, such as the Peggy Guggenheim and Tate Collection, and the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden in Washington DC. In 2010, a 'Cavaliere' by Marini was auctioned for a record prize of USD 7,2 million.

Selected Exhibitions

2014

Marino Marini – schilder, tekenaar, beeldhouwer, Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, The Netherlands; in collaboration with Fondazione Marino Marini, Pistoia and Museo Marino Marini, Florence, Italy

1978

National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan

1973

Permanent installation, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Milan, Italy

1966

Retrospective, Palazzo Venezia, Rome, Italy

1963

Toninelli Arte Moderna, Milan, Italy
Permanent installation monumental sculpture, *Il Grido*,
Skulpturengarten der Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany

1962

Retrospective, Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland

1959

Permanent installation monumental sculpture, *Cavallo e Cavaliere*,
Marinipark, The Hague, The Netherlands
Permanent installation monumental sculpture, *Miracolo*,
Skulpturenpark Pinakotheken, Munich, Germany

1955

Marino Marini, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam,
The Netherlands

1954

Awarded the Feltrinelli Prize, Accademia dei Lincei, Rome, Italy

1953

Permanent installation monumental sculpture, *Il Grande Miracolo*,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

1952

Awarded the Grand Prize for Sculpture, Venice Biennale, Italy

1951

Marino Marini, Kestner-Gesellschaft Hannover, Kunstverein
Hamburg en Haus der Kunst in München, Germany
Open Air Sculpture Exhibition, Battersea Park, London, UK

1950

Buchholz Gallery, New York, USA

1949

Twentieth-Century Italian Art, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA),
New York, USA

1928

Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Selected Collections

Marino Marini Museum, Firenze, Italy
Fondazione Marino Marini, Pistoia, Italy
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy
Kunstmuseum Basel, Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, Cologne, Germany
Skulpturenpark Pinakotheken, Munich, Germany
Skulpturengarten der Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
Tate Gallery, London, UK
Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Sculpture International Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Marinipark, The Hague, The Netherlands
Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterloo, The Netherlands
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, USA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., USA
Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Washington DC., USA
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, USA
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, USA
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland