

PARK EUN SUN

INFINITA FLUIDITÀ DELLA PIETRA

Lungomare di Viareggio (LU)



From June 19th to September 5th 2021, the seafront of Viareggio, one of the most evocative and fascinating places in Versilia, will become the ideal stage for the works of the refined Korean artist Park Eun Sun.

The exhibition is promoted by the Municipality of Viareggio and the Department of Culture, under the patronage of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Italy and of the Korean Cultural Institute, and organized by Contini Art Gallery which in addition to representing the artist once again affirms its link with Versilia, having already organized in this flourishing territory memorable public exhibitions of great contemporary masters such as Igor Mitoraj, Pablo Atchugarry, Manolo Valdés and Julio Larraz.

A summer dedicated to contemporary art with geometric but at the same time sinuous and smooth shapes that represents the perfect synthesis between oriental style and poetics and a reference to the Florentine Romanesque tradition characterized by two-tone marble.

Park Eun Sun's marble and granite compositions develop in column, spiral or globular and spherical shapes made by alternating two colours and layering them in a way which creates harmonious sculptures, expertly shaped and deeply empathic.

The artist's experimentation begins with the material, the stone, almost in a scientific way, by enhancing it and at the same time deconstructing it - in fact, a fundamental characteristic of his contemporary gestures being that of imposing a fracture.

The marbles and granites are sculpted, polished and finally split before being reassembled. For the artist, these cracks are a metaphor for life, the scars of the suffering inherent in existence, but at the same time a symbol of reconstruction and rebirth.

This is Park's profound universal message that reaches the viewer through an involvement that destabilizes the balance through contrasting sensations induced by the opposition of smoothness and fracture, shadows and lights, play of light and dark, empty and full.

The monumental sculptures exhibited alongside the lively promenade accompany visitors on an artistic journey with a strong visual impact.

Near the very central Piazza Maria Luisa and Piazza Puccini, *Colonna Infinita* is the host, a monumental sculpture from 2016 that exceeds 11 meters in height and develops in a spiral column ascending to the sky in an alternation of white and grey marble slabs. Its solidity, tending to infinity, is marked by the artist's gesture of identity: the crack. These cracks flow along the surface allowing to have a glimpse of the material and create a silent dialogue with the surrounding environment that seems to flow inside.

The suggestive walk among the works of art continues towards the symbolic Fontana delle Quattro Stagioni, where you can observe *Simmetria-Combinazione* and *Allargare-Colonna*, both from 2014 and made up of green and black granite layers. The solid body of the sculptures undergoes a metamorphosis transforming itself into a sort of spherical branching that modifies the perception of space occupying it not only in height but also in width.

Harmony and balance without functionality, soft and square shapes, smooth stone and rough cracks are the distinctive traits of the artist and, like his message, can be traced in the works set up in the beating heart of the Viareggio seafront: Piazza Mazzini and the Belvedere delle Maschere.

The square, the greenery and the infinite sea views that open onto the horizon create an ideal setting for Park Eun Sun's sculptures: three tapered columns converse with each other, harmonizing in the city space, while two works of horizontal composition face towards the sea. *Continuazione- Duplicazione I*, from 2017, extends in four meters, in a succession of black and yellow granite spheres. Initially united, they proceed by separating and then unite again almost to represent a genetic flow, a multiplication of cells.

And it is this almost scientific aspect that demonstrates, once again, how the work of the Korean master is centred around the theme of human interiority, not only the "physical", but the emotional one, specifically. Life, understood as a flow of linked events and experiences, is shaped here with a refined and skilful gesture that, thanks to the shape, involves the viewer and merges with the environment, modifying the perception of space and time sliding over the fluidity of the stone to then stop between its cracks.

An open-air exhibition that was created with the aim of encouraging the rebirth and enjoyment of culture by bringing contemporary art into everyday city life.

Biography

Park Eun Sun was born in 1965 in Mopko in South Korea. The discovery of painting comes very early in the life of the artist who dreams of becoming a great painter.

Over the years, Park Eun Sun has participated in and won many painting competitions for children, his parents thus allowing him to devote himself to art freely. After moving to Seoul, he enrolled in the degree course to become an arts teacher at Kyung Hee University.

The importance devoted to forms and matter brings him closer to the study of sculpture, thus leading him to change his studies at the University of Kyung Hee, passing from painting to sculpture. The discovery of materials passes from the initial use of clay to marble and later to granite.

In 1993 he moved to Pietrasanta (LU), where he continued his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara. His first solo exhibitions were held in Florence in 1995, in Munich in 1996 and in Seoul in 1997.

Park's sculpture develops in the concept of space expressed by oriental cultures through the abrasion of the surface where cracks, gashes and cuts coexist, symbolizing the opening of the human interior and, at the same time, the total destruction of matter.

Park has exhibited in galleries and museums in Italy (Florence, Genoa, Pietrasanta, Rome, Turin, Verona, Padua, Milan) and abroad (Belgium, Korea, France, Germany, England, Luxembourg, Holland, Panama, Poland, Singapore, United States and Switzerland).

His work is currently located between Europe, South Korea and the Americas. In 2020 he was awarded the Honorary Citizenship of the city of Pietrasanta.

The exhibition can be visited from June 19th to September 5th, 2021

Piazza Maria Luisa

Piazza Puccini

Fontana delle Quattro Stagioni

Piazza Mazzini- Belvedere della Maschere

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