



COLONNE INFINITE

PARK EUN SUN

From June 12th to September 30th 2024

On the occasion of the 'Year of Cultural Exchange Italy and Korea 2024-2025' and of the 140th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Italy and Korea, the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Korea, the Korean Cultural Institute in Italy and the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE) organize the exhibition 'Infinite Columns' by the sculptor Park Eun Sun in the historical center of Rome.

The exhibition, curated by Leonardo Contini and staged in collaboration with the Archaeological Park of the Colosseum, the Municipality of Rome, and the Contini Art Gallery, will take place in three significant sites of the historical center such as the Temple of Venus, Piazza della Bocca della Verità and the Septizodium that faces the Circo Massimo. The exhibition will be inaugurated on June 11th and open to the public from June 12th until September 30th. It will feature five works by sculptor Park Eun Sun, including an imposing sculpture with a height of about fourteen meters.

Park Eun Sun, South Korean by origin and Italian by adoption, represents the ideal mediator in this dialogue between countries: thirty years ago the artist left his native country and now lives permanently in

Pietrasanta, close to the marble quarries of Carrara, his favorite material from which he creates his elegant works.

Well-established internationally, Park creates works that merge his Eastern roots with Western artistic tradition. His stylistic signature is evident in the deep fractures that run through his works and become an intrinsic part of them. These 'wounds' recall suffering on the one side, but on the other, they are an important sign of rebirth, as well as a window that permits us to 'see beyond the surface' to admire the inside of the sculpture, where the material is still raw. Park's works are also characterized by the use of a refined technique of alternating two different colors, which produces the effect of an elegant bichromatic layering.

After the successful exhibition 'Park Eun Sun. Il Ritmo della Pietra' held last autumn at Palazzo Litta in Milan, the next important setting for Park Eun Sun's creations will be Rome. Here, in the Eternal City, the five monumental works will present a reflection on the theme of the column, so dear to the artist. No longer structural or decorative elements, Park's columns now have a different ambition: they are a sculptural formulation of the concept of infinity, which is expressed through the geometric tensions that constitute and extend them upwards.

Two red and black granite columns will conceptually extend the peristyle of the Temple of Venus, in the Archaeological Park of Colosseum, right in front of the amphitheater. Their suggestive location will propose a 'poetics of absences' aimed at suggesting a reflection on the void, rich in historical and artistic value, of what time and history erased.

In the Piazza della Bocca della Verità, between the circular temple of Ercole Vincitore and the temple of Portuno, a fourteen-meter-high sculpture will stand. Setting up a dialogue with the cochlid columns of Trajan and Marcus Aurelius, Park's work will ideally take the place of the column of Antoninus Pius, the ruins of which were found in the 18th century in the area of the Campo Marzio.

Lastly, two columns over six meters high will stand on the site once occupied by the Septizodium, a monumental nymphaeum from the Imperial Age facing the Circo Massimo.

The theme of the exhibition 'Infinite Columns' is an expression of the sculptor's concept of 'infinity', but also aligns with the wish for the infinite development of the exchange relationship between Italy and Korea on the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Biography

Park Eun Sun was born in 1965 in Mokpo, South Korea. The discovery of painting came very early in the life of the artist who dreamed of becoming a great painter. Over the years Park Eun Sun took part in and won many children's painting competitions so his parents allowed him to devote himself freely to art. After moving to Seoul, he enrolled in a degree course to become an art teacher at Kyung Hee University. The emphasis on forms and materials drew him closer to the study of sculpture, leading him to change his studies at Kyung Hee University from painting to sculpture. The discovery of materials moved from the initial use of clay to marble and then to granite. Park's sculpture develops in the concept of space as expressed by oriental cultures through the abrasion of the surface where splits, gashes, and cuts symbolize the opening of the human interiority and, at the same time, the destruction of matter. His first solo exhibitions were held in Florence in 1995, in Munich in 1996, and in Seoul in 1997. Park exhibited in several 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, the United States and Switzerland). Since 2021 the artist is exclusively represented by the Contini Art Gallery, which has realised several important exhibitions including 'Infinita fluidità della pietra' in Viareggio, 'Nell'Infinito dell'Arte' in Venice and Cortina d'Ampezzo and 'Dal Mare all'Infinito' in Forte dei Marmi. In 2022, the artist's monumental works were exhibited at the Teatro del Silenzio in Lajatico (Pisa) and

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in the historical center of Pontedera (Pisa). In the same year, a monumental work was donated to the city of Pietrasanta (Lucca). In 2023, he exhibited in Milano Marittima and in the prestigious halls of Palazzo Litta in Milan. He currently works between Europe and South Korea. In 2025, the 'Infinito' Museum, an exhibition space entirely dedicated to Park Eun Sun, designed by the famous architect Mario Botta, will be inaugurated in South Korea.



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