



PARK EUN SUN

L'EREDITÀ DELLA SCULTURA

From 15 June to 22 September 2024

Piazza Duomo, Piazza Carducci, Church and Cloister of Sant'Agostino
Pietrasanta

Inauguration in the presence of the artist Saturday 15 June, 6.30 pm

*"Suffering generates beauty and, in the broken and recomposed stone, harmony is reconstituted,
fruit the creative act"*

The Municipality of Pietrasanta (LU), in collaboration with the Contini Art Gallery of Venice and the Versilia Lunigiana and Garfagnana Bank (BVLG), under the patronage of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Italy and the Korean Cultural Institute, is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Park Eun Sun *L'Eredità della Scultura*, to be held in the focal points of the city of Pietrasanta: Piazza Carducci, Piazza Duomo and in the Complex of Sant'Agostino, from 15 June to 22 September 2024.

In the enchanting setting of Pietrasanta, a historic crossroads of artists and sculptors, renowned for its long tradition tied to the processing of marble, some of the most representative and iconic works will be exhibited by artist Park Eun Sun. The exhibition aims to pay homage to the Master of South Korean origin and celebrate

thirty years passed since his arrival in the city of Versilia, from which he was awarded the title of honorary citizen in 2021.

An internationally renowned artist, Park Eun Sun offers works that blend its oriental roots with an inspiration derived from the Western artistic tradition. In the sculptures, characterized by a deeply contemporary dimension, the artist explores the complexity of human life, in his experiences and earthly vicissitudes.

His stylistic figure is manifested in the deep fractures that cut through the works, becoming an integral part of them. These “wounds” that flow on the smooth and polished surfaces of Park's creations symbolize, on the one hand, suffering, but on the other hand, they are also a strong symbol of reconstruction and rebirth.

Park's first approach to sculpture was with granite, a material easily found in Korea. Later, with the transfer to Carrara, he began to work with marble, which soon became his preferred material of choice. Park's works are distinguished by the use of a refined technique that sees the alternation of two different colors, which are expertly superimposed to return the effect of an elegant biochromatic layering.

After the success of the exhibition “*Park Eun Sun. Il Ritmo della Pietra*” held last winter at Palazzo Litta in Milan, the sumptuous setting of Park Eun Sun's creations for summer 2024 will be the heart of the city of Pietrasanta. The undisputed stars will be the majestic monumental columns made of marble, exposed in the very central Piazza del Duomo. Among these will stand out “*Colonna Infinita – Accrescimento*” (2022), of more than eleven meters high, made specifically for the 2022 edition of the Teatro del Silenzio in Lajatico, on the occasion of the concert “*Infinito*” by Andrea Bocelli. Still, in Piazza del Duomo it will be possible to admire the other two “*Colonne Infinite*” and a sculpture “*Generazione*”, created specially by the master for this prestigious exhibition dedicated to him. In Piazza Carducci, it will be possible to admire two other sculptures, while along di Mezzo Street will be set up a special space made available by Banca Versilia Lunigiana and Garfagnana (BVLG). Here, it will be possible to admire the work carried out by some of Park Eun Sun's fellow students, who supported him in the early stages of his artistic career in South Korea.

In the dim light of the church of Sant'Agostino, together with the iconic “*Generazioni*” the avant-garde bright sculptures designed by the Master will help create a unique suggestive atmosphere and visual experience. Columns of marble spheres emptied and illuminated, these works mark a further step forward in Park's artistic experimentation, which gives marble an unprecedented breath of life.

Along the cloister of Sant'Agostino open the Hall of Putti and the Hall of the Capitolo, which will be dedicated to exhibiting some unpublished drawings by Park, from which it will be possible to grasp the complex creative process that it is the basis of his work, and some bronze works. A room in the cloister will host “*L'Atelier*”, a section of the exhibition dedicated to the works of the artist Lee Kyung Hee, wife of Park Eun Sun, and some of the Korean sculptor's collaborators, whose contribution was instrumental in defining his artistic path.

Biography:

Artist Park Eun Sun was born in 1965 in Mokpo, South Korea. His inclination towards painting emerged early on, as he aspired from a young age to pursue a significant career as a painter. At the age of 12, despite his parents' opposition to attending the Art Institute, his middle school Art teacher recognized his talent and secretly allowed him to attend painting lessons. By participating in numerous art competitions and earning various accolades, Park eventually gained his parents' consent to freely follow his artistic passion. Subsequently, he moved to Seoul and enrolled in the Art program at Kyung Hee University, intending to become an art professor. After completing his military service, Park dedicated himself to real estate design, an experience that brought him closer to the study of space and sparked his interest in sculpture. This interest led him to change his academic path, switching from painting to sculpture at the same university, prompting him to explore a wide range of materials, from clay to marble and granite. During his university years, Park developed a preference for abstraction, finding that merely reproducing the real world was insufficient to fully express his personal artistic language. This inclination led him to develop a unique and iconic

expressive code. In 1993, he moved to Pietrasanta, where he continued his studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara. His first solo exhibitions were held in Florence in 1995, Munich in 1996, and Seoul in 1997. Since then, Park has exhibited his works in numerous galleries and museums in Italy (Florence, Genoa, Pietrasanta, Rome, Turin, Verona, Padua, Milan) and abroad (Belgium, South Korea, France, Germany, England, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Singapore, the United States, and Switzerland). In 2015, he received the Medal of Honor for Civil Merit from the Korean Government, and in 2018, the "Pietrasanta and Versilia in the World" award from the Fratelli Rosselli Cultural Circle in Pietrasanta. Starting in 2021, the artist has been exclusively represented by the Contini Art Gallery, which has organized several important exhibitions, including those in Viareggio, Venice, Cortina d'Ampezzo, and Forte dei Marmi. That same year, he was awarded honorary citizenship by the City of Pietrasanta. In 2022, his monumental works were exhibited at the Teatro del Silenzio in Lajatico, Pisa, and in the historic center of Pontedera, Pisa, with one being used as a set design for Andrea Bocelli's "Infinito" concert at the Teatro del Silenzio. In the same year, Park donated "Colonna Infinita," a significant monumental sculpture, to the City of Pietrasanta, now an integral part of the International Park of Contemporary Sculpture. In 2023, Park exhibited in Milano Marittima and later in one of the most important examples of Baroque architecture in Milan, Palazzo Litta. In Forte dei Marmi, he received the "Versilia Excellence Award" for choosing the Versilia region as the center of his creativity for nearly 30 years and making an essential contribution to its international excellence. Currently, his work activities take place between Europe and South Korea. In the fall of 2024, the inauguration of the Park Eun Sun Atelier in Pietrasanta is planned – a workshop, offices, and a large exhibition area on three floors, as well as an external courtyard – designed by architect Mario Botta, who simultaneously also designed the museum dedicated to the Master in his hometown, set to open in 2025 in Sinan, South Korea.

Catalog with text by Gabriele Simongini

With the patronage of



Ambasciata della
Repubblica di Corea



한국문화원
Istituto Culturale Coreano

In collaboration with

CONTINI
GALLERIA D'ARTE

Supported by



GRUPPO BCC ICCREA

For information:

CENTRO CULTURALE "LUIGI RUSSO"

Via S. Agostino, 1
Pietrasanta (LU)
tel. 0584/795500
www.museodeibozzetti.it
Ufficio Stampa & Comunicazione
Giada Menichetti
0584.795213

GALLERIA D'ARTE CONTINI

San Marco 2288
Calle Larga XXII Marzo
30124 Venezia
Tel. +39 041 52 30 357
riccarda@continiarte.com
venezia@continiarte.com
www.continiarte.com