

## IGOR MITORAJ

*«I can say that for me Beauty is something that makes me dream, but it's something much more intense than a dream. It's an ideal, a mirage, an enigma».*



### Biography

**Igor Mitoraj** was born in 1944 of a Polish mother and a French father in Oederan, Germany.

He spends his youth in Krakow where he studies at the Academy of Fine Arts. Under the tutelage of Tadeusz Kantor, he is introduced to contemporary artists such as Andy Warhol, Lichtenstein, Merz and Klein. In 1968 he arrives in Paris to continue his studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (National High School of Fine Arts).

A lengthy stay in Mexico in the early seventies allows him to study South American and Aztec cultures. At this point, Mitoraj chooses to express himself artistically in the form of sculpture.

In 1976, his first personal exhibition at the La Hune Gallery in Paris has an enormous success. He is awarded important prizes such as the "Montrouge Prix de la Sculpture" and is encouraged by the French minister of Culture who provides him with a studio at Montmartre. Mitoraj travels extensively, in particular to New York and Greece. After a visit to Pietrasanta in Tuscany, a sculptor's paradise, the artist discovers marble as an ideal material for his sculptures, in addition to his previous use of terracotta and bronze.

In 1983, he chooses to make Italy his home and opens a studio in Pietrasanta, though he continues to maintain his Paris atelier. In 1986, Mitoraj accepts an invitation to participate in the XLII International Biennial Art Exhibition in Venice. In only a few years' time, Mitoraj's works of art are exhibited in many countries, often one-man shows as well as displayed in important museums. He begins to receive significant international commissions for his huge monumental sculptures both from private collectors as well as from the public sector. His works can be seen in London at the British Museum and Canary Wharf, at Bamberg and Krakow, in Paris at La Défence, at the Uffizi Museum and the Boboli Gardens in Florence, in Piazza del Carmine and the Scala Theatre in Milan as well as in Rome in Piazza Monte Grappa and Piazza Mignanelli.

In the early 1990s, Igor Mitoraj starts a successful and long-term collaboration with the Contini Art Gallery.

In 2004, Mitoraj exhibits his monumental sculptures at the Tuileries Gardens of Paris, at the Mercati di Traiano in Rome (in collaboration with the Contini Art Gallery) and at the Royal Palace of Warsaw.

In September 2005, The Contini Art Gallery of Venice, in collaboration with the city of Venice Civic Museums of Art and History, inaugurates an exhibition entitled *Mitoraj a Venezia*, an exhibition of 21 sculptures, 16 of monumental size along with 25 inedited drawings. This exhibition followed an artistic route throughout the heart of the city of Venice – the Contini Art Gallery, Ca' Pesaro Museum of Modern Art and strategically placed in various *campi* of Venice, along the Grand Canal. Other points of interest even extended to Mestre on the mainland in the San Giuliano Park and at the Civic Center. The exhibition has a huge success.

In September 2008, the Contini Art Gallery inaugurates a personal exhibition in Venice, *BiancoNero*, with completely new works realized expressly by the artist for this occasion – twenty or more sculptures in chromatic and material dissonance – white Carrara marble, black Belgian marble and bronze works in black patina – all placed in a highly atmospheric setting. The artist also presents a series of icons on a gold background, using the antique pictorial technique of encaustic art of which the ancient Greeks and Pompeians were master craftsmen.

In 2011 his monumental sculptures are exhibited in the beautiful context of Temple Valley, in Sicily, while in the spring 2012 the solo exhibition *Memoriae* is unveiled, during the “Ravello Festival 2012”, in the amazing location of the Amalfitane Coast.

In 2014 two important events for the artist take place: an exhibition to inaugurate the monumental complex in Miracoli Square (Pisa), and the unveiling of the first exhibition at the Contini Art UK in London.

The artist has worked between Italy and France until his death in Paris in October 2014.

In 2015, the Contini Art Gallery dedicates to Igor Mitoraj an important retrospective in Venice, an homage to the artist, who has been proudly represented for over twenty years; in the same year, the exhibition *Mitoraj. Mito e Musica* takes place in the city of Pietrasanta. In 2016, about thirty monumental sculptures are displayed in the prestigious archeological site of Pompeii, making his dream come true.

**Exhibitions**

**2018**

*I Gioielli di Igor Mitoraj – The Art of Wearing Art*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

**2016 - 2017**

*Mitoraj a Pompei*, sito archeologico di Pompei, Pompei, Italia

**2015**

*Omaggio a Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

*Mitoraj. Mito e Musica*, Pietrasanta, Italy

**2014**

*Angeli*, Piazza dei Miracoli, Pisa, Italy

*Traces of Time*, Contini Art UK, London, UK

**2013**

*Annunciazione*, Chiesa e chiostro di Sant'Agostino, Pietrasanta (LU), Italy

**2012**

*Memoriae*, Villa Rufolo, Ravello (SA), Italy

**2011**

*Igor Mitoraj*, Valle dei templi di Agrigento, Italy

**2010**

*Mitoraj monumental*, Aix-en-Provence, France

*Mitoraj monumental*, Abbaye de Silvacane, France

*Porte en bronze*, Église de Confoux, Confoux, France

**2009**

*Opera Festival: Aida*, Giardino di Boboli, Florence, Italy

*Porte des Anges*, Matki Bozej Laskawej, Warsaw, Poland

*Lux in Tenebris*, Fabryka Trzciny, Warsaw, Poland

*Bronzes Noirs*, Galleria Flora Bigai, Pietrasanta, Italy

**2008**

*BiancoNero*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

*Fer*, Palazzo dell'Abbondanza, Massa Marittima, Italy

*Igor Mitoraj*, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Canada

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Paseo del Prado, Madrid, Spain

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Almería, Spain

**2007**

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Rambla de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Seville, Spain

*Igor Mitoraj. Angeli ed eroi*, Loggiato San Bartolomeo, Palermo, Italy

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, San Sebastian, Spain

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, La Corogne, Spain

**2006**

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Granada, Spain

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Gran Via Marqués del Turia, Valenza, Spain

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

*Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido*, Vigo, Spain

*Festival Puccini: Tosca*, Torre del Lago, Italy

*Porte en bronze*, Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri, Rome, Italy

**2005**

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Musei Civici Veneziani, Ca' Pesaro, Venice, Italy

**2004**

*Sculptures: Cité perdue*, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures monumentales*, Jardin des Tuileries, Paris, France

*Mitoraj ai Mercati di Traiano*, Mercati di Traiano, Rome, Italy

Zamek Królewski, Warsaw, Poland

**2003**

*Igor Mitoraj*, International Center of Culture, Kracow, Poland

Museum Narodowe, Poznań, Poland

*Igor Mitoraj*, Galería Joan Gaspar, Madrid, Spain

**2002**

*Die schönheit. Eine zerbochene utopie*, Istitut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Germany

*Igor Mitoraj*, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Lugano, Switzerland

*Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria Tega, Milan, Italy

JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

*Festival Puccini: Manon Lescaut*, Torre del Lago, Italy

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

## 2001

*Igor Mitoraj, nouvelle mythologie*, Musée Olympique, Lausanne, Switzerland

Die Galerie, Kaiserplatz, Frankfort am Main, Germany

## 2000

JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

*Mitoraj miti incrociati*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

*Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen*, Mumm Akademie, Villa Hajo Rüter, Eltville, Germany

*Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen*, Kunstverein Bamberg, Villa Concordia, Bamberg, Germany

*Recent Bronzes*, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Canada

*Mitoraj: nostalgia del mito*, San Marino

## 1999

*Igor Mitoraj. Dei ed Eroi*, Palazzo Pitti, Museo Archeologico, Giardino di Boboli, Florence, Italy

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Museo degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy

Zoumboulakis Galleries, Athens, Greece

## 1998

Die Galerie, Opernplatz, Frankfort am Main, Germany

*Mitoraj. Sculture*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

## 1997

La Défense, KPMG, Paris, France

*Igor Mitoraj. Raadselachtige Schoonheid*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Scheveningen, Holland

*Mitoraj, Il giardino delle muse*, Biblioteca di via Senato, Milan, Italy

Istituto polacco, Rome, Italy

*Mitoraj. Sculture*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

Chiesa di Sant'Agostino, Piazza Duomo, Pietrasanta, Italy

**1996**

Academy Gallery, Bath, UK

*Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Prato, Italy

Marisa Del Re Gallery, Palm Beach, USA

**1995**

*Igor Mitoraj*, Casa del Cordón, Burgos, Spain

*Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Prato, Italy

*Larmes amères d'Aphrodite*, Marisa Del Re Gallery, New York, USA

Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Chiostro San Francesco, Galleria Medusa, Cesena, Italy

**1994**

*Time machine*, The British Museum, London, UK

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Muzeum Narodowe, Wrocław, Poland

Galerie Nationale, Łódź, Poland

Galería Lévy, Madrid, Spain

Sala Imagen, Sevilla, Spain

Museo de Navaja, Pamplona, Spain

Fundación Caja Vital Kutxa, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain

**1993**

JGM. Galerie, Parigi, France

Galeria Krdegarda, Warsaw, Poland

Galleria Forni, Bologna, Italy

Università de Cracovie, Cracow, Poland

Galerie Nazionale, Poznań, Poland

**1992**

The Economist Plaza, London, UK

BSG Fine Art Gallery, London, UK

Accademia Italiana, London, UK

*Igor Mitoraj*, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Leeds, Wakefield, UK

ARCO/JGM. Galerie, Madrid, Spain

**1991**

*Têtes*, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

*Igor Mitoraj*, Castello Sforzesco, Milano, Italy

Thomas Tivelli Gallery, Aspen, USA

The M&I Rayburn Foundation, New York, USA

**1990**

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures and drawings*, Gerald Peters Gallery, Dallas, USA

Stembock-Fermor Gallery, Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden

**1989**

*Igor Mitoraj*, Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures 1989*, New York Academy of Art, New York, USA

*Mitoraj. Sculture e disegni*, Rocca Malatestiana, Cesena, Italy

**1988**

Galería Lévy, Madrid, Spain

Galleria Valente, Artforum, Hamburg, Germany

**1987**

*Igor Mitoraj. Elegie per Roma*, Galleria Due Ci, Rome, Italy

Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculture 1987*, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

Stembock-Fermor Gallery, Ghent, Belgium

**1986**

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures 1976-1986*, Galerie La Hune, Paris, France

Galerie Pierre Huber, Geneva, Switzerland

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, Italy

Galerie Stemmler-Adler, Heidelberg, Germany

**1985**

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Museo di Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome, Italy

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculture*, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

Galleria Tavolozza, Palermo, Italy

Maison de la Culture, Metz, France

**1984**

Galerie l'Orangerie, Cologne, Germany

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculpturen, Zeichnungen*, Galerie Lévy, Hamburg, Germany

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Galleria Toninelli, Rome, Italy

**1983**

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Galerie Artcurial, Fribourg, Switzerland

Galerie Cupillard, Saint-Tropez, France

**1982**

La Rocabella, Monte-Carlo, Monaco

*Kunst in Köln*, Galerie Lévy, Cologne, Germany

**1981**

Galerie Artcurial, Paris, France

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

*Kunst in Köln*, Galerie Lévy, Cologne, Germany

**1980**

Fondation Veranneman, Kruishoutem, Belgium

*Igor Mitoraj. Sculpturen*, Galerie Lévy, Hamburg, Germany

Galerie Mathilde, Amsterdam, Holland

Galerie G. Bach, Geneva, Switzerland

**1979**

Galerie Cupillard, Grenoble, France

Galerie Bornand, Marseilles, France

Studio 40, The Hague, Holland