

GIOVANNI ANSELMO

SEPTEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 18, 2026

Repetto Gallery, Lugano

Repetto Gallery presents the first solo exhibition in Swiss Italian of artist **Giovanni Anselmo**, one of the leading figures of Arte Povera and one of the most significant figures in Italian art of the second half of the 20th century. The exhibition, **open to the public from 19 September to 18 December 2026**, brings together **eight iconic works by the artist, spanning over fifty years of artistic exploration and retracing the core elements of his artistic vision:** gravity, magnetism, balance, time, space, and the complex web of invisible forces that govern both nature and human experience.

From the outset, Anselmo redefined the concept of sculpture, never viewing it as a finished form or autonomous object, but as an open system of ever-changing relationships. As Germano Celant wrote in *Arte Povera. Appunti per una guerriglia* (1967), Anselmo's work is one of the most radical moments of the Arte Povera movement, transcending the tradition of representation and allowing reality itself to act as form. Stone, iron, wood, organic elements, compasses and light constitute the essential vocabulary of a practice that brings together disparate materials, to allow the invisible forces of the cosmos to manifest themselves.

«I have created works based on the idea that they represent time in the broadest sense, or infinity, or the invisible, or the whole—perhaps simply because I am an earthly being and, as such, limited in time, space, and detail»¹, the artist stated. It is precisely on these potential and reciprocal energies—imperceptible yet constantly active—that his artistic vision is founded. Each work exists in a state of impermanence, shaped by the passage of time, the laws of physics, and the evolving relationships between its constituent elements. Rather than merely representing a natural phenomenon, Anselmo's works reveal it, offering a direct experience of an alchemical world that eludes our gaze. The artist focuses on the subtle boundary between what is visible and what extends beyond the limits of our perception, encouraging viewers to experience the world anew.

The exhibition itinerary unfolds through a selection of iconic works that, beginning in the 1960s, trace an artistic endeavor aimed at revealing a tension-filled fullness within empty spaces and uncovering the latent energy in seemingly inert materials. From the suspended anticipation of *Trespolo* (1969) and the conceptual reflections of *Particolare del lato in alto della prima I di Infinito* (1969-1975) and *Lato destro* (1970), all the way to *Linea terra* (1970-2017), where a simple gesture expands into a cosmic dimension, each work invites viewers to reconsider their relationship with space and perception. The projected light of *Particolare* (1972-2015-2026), the precarious balances of the two works *Senza titolo* (*Untitled* 1984; 1989-90) and *Mentre la terra si orienta* (2002-2026)—which makes the Earth's magnetic field perceptible—compose a system of relationships in which each element exists solely through what passes through it, making perceptible a reality that transcends the limits of immediate vision. More than fifty years after their creation, Giovanni Anselmo's works retain a surprising ability to question the present, revealing the profound connections that unite seemingly disparate elements and reminding us that every form exists only thanks to the forces that flow through it.

The exhibition is accompanied by a **catalog** featuring an essay by Paolo Repetto, art critic and historian, illustrated with historical photographs by Paolo Mussat Sartor and Paolo Bressano, as well as images of the works installed in the gallery by Daniele De Lonti and Vincenzo Miranda. The catalog will be published by Silvana Editoriale in Italian and English.

¹ Giovanni Anselmo, *Interview with Mirella Bandini*, NAC no. 3, Bari, March 1973, p. 4

Repetto Gallery is dedicated to promoting international art and fostering an aesthetic renewal toward more contemporary trends. Born from a family venture launched in 1967 by Aurelio Repetto, it continues today—60 years later—thanks to the passion and determination of his three sons, Carlo, Paolo, and Saverio. The gallery's commitment to exhibition projects—which feature leading figures from major movements ranging from Arte Povera to Land Art, as well as established and emerging artists—is strongly focused on promoting Italian artists abroad and showcasing the most significant international developments in modern and contemporary art. Three generations have dedicated their work and lives to art, a passion evident in every project they undertake.