

aspenartmuseum



IMAGE: Lucio Fontana, *Fondo del Mar* (ca. 1940's). Thomas H. Lee and Ann Tenenbaum collection.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2012

**THE ASPEN ART MUSEUM PRESENTS FIRST U.S. MUSEUM EXHIBITION
DEDICATED TO GROUNDBREAKING CERAMIC WORK OF ARTIST
LUCIO FONTANA**

Lucio Fontana: Ceramics offers a rare look at late artist's works in clay from the 1930s through 1960s; On View July 27—October 7, 2012

ASPEN, COLORADO—The Aspen Art Museum presents a rare exhibition of ceramic works by artist Lucio Fontana (Argentine-Italian, 1899-1968), on view from July 27 through October 7, 2012. Comprising over a dozen works from the early 1930s through the '60s, *Lucio Fontana: Ceramics* will be the first museum exhibition dedicated solely to this aspect of the artist's groundbreaking work. Providing a unique opportunity to reexamine the artist's entire career, the exhibition focuses on a selection of Fontana's works in clay, which, although vitally important to his working methods and pivotal in his trajectory as an artist, have never been accorded their deserved importance.

One of the 20th century's most innovative artists, Lucio Fontana continually challenged the boundaries of art-making and the role of the artist, using a rich vocabulary of material, form, and action. Although best known for his *Concetti Spaziale*, the spatial environments and slashed canvases he created in the 1950s and '60s, Fontana produced a body of baroque ceramic work beginning in the 1930s in which he engaged both painting and sculpture in innovative and productive new ways. The beauty of chance and accident, evident from the start in Fontana's use of ceramics, becomes a strong current in much of the artist's later work, with some of his first *Concetti Spaziale* realized in clay before canvas. With subject matter as varied as battle scenes and flowers, these expressive works gain a raw immediacy from Fontana's vigorous hand modeling—the clay becoming a register of the artist's process. This direct, forceful manipulation of the purity of the surface also prefigures the violence of the *Concetti Spaziale*.

Exhibition-related Programming

Saturday, August 4, 4 pm

Anderson Ranch Arts Center, 5263 Owl Creek Road, Snowmass, CO

A panel discussion with artists Kathy Butterly, Charles Long, Katy Schimert and AAM CEO and Director, Chief Curator, Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson held in collaboration with Anderson Ranch. Introduced by Anderson Ranch Executive Director Barbara Bloemink.

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Panel discussion held in collaboration with
AndersonRanch
arts center

The Aspen Art Museum is a noncollecting institution presenting the newest, most important evolutions in international contemporary art. Our innovative and timely exhibitions, education and public programs, immersive activities, and community happenings actively engage audiences in thought-provoking experiences of art, culture, and society.

AAM MUSEUM HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, noon to 6:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays

AAM ADMISSION IS FREE courtesy of John and Amy Phelan

Visit the AAM online: www.aspenartmuseum.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Meg Blackburn

FITZ & CO

212-627-1455 x225

meg@fitzandco.com

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