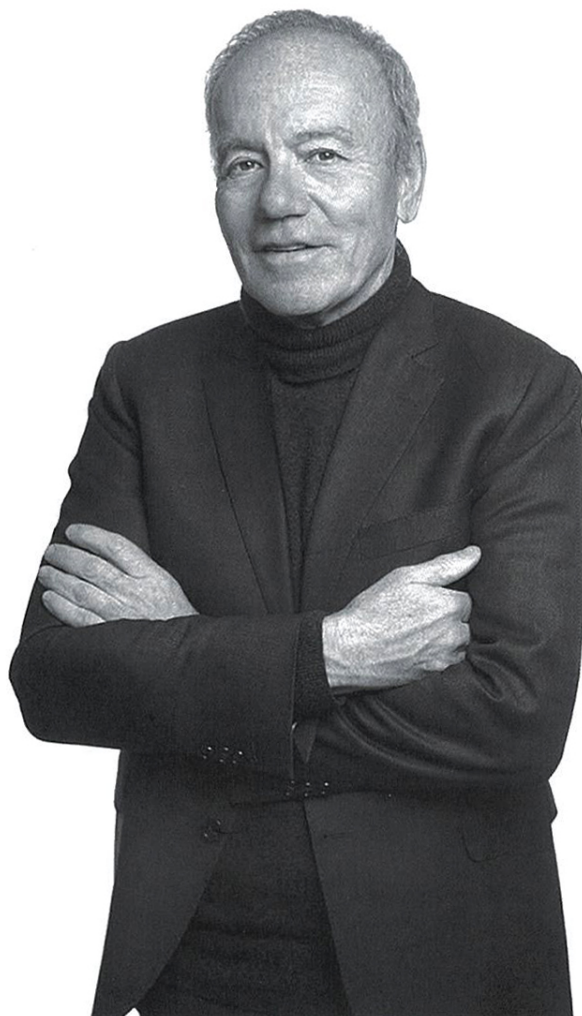


Piero Gilardi

Galerie Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels

by *Marta Dellagiacomma*



Michel Rein in una foto di Valérie Le Guern

A selection of Piero Gilardi's works will be on view from September 2020 at Michel Rein's Parisian gallery situated in the historical Le Marais district. Founded in Tour in 1992, Michel Rein represents prestigious artists, supporting French and international artistic scenes. In 2000 Michel Rein moved to Paris, and in 2013 it opened a second independent space in Brussels. Gilardi has always been related to the French contemporary art panorama, in particular to the ecological and political committed practices. His personal exhibition in Paris (September 5th - October 10th), curated by Valérie da Costa, will have an anthological approach, presenting works from the 60's to the present day. On the occasion of Gilardi's exhibition, Michel Rein agreed to answer a few questions about his relationship with the Italian artist work.

What are the research guidelines of your galleries? Since we started the gallery in 1992, poetics and politics are our main guidelines. We always were interested in politically or socially committed artists working in a poetic way whatever are their practices, nationalities, generations. We are representing emerging as well as established artists. We also focus on French artists as we are keen to promoting our local artistic scene.

What are your relations with contemporary art museum institutions? We try to have the best possible relations with private and public collections. Both activities are rewarding. We obviously consider as our prior goal to promote our artists to museum directors and international curators. We were lucky that most of our artists are collected by international museums and participated to major exhibitions as Venice Biennial, Documenta Kassel... It is mainly due to the incredible relevance of our artists.

How does Gilardi's work relate to the artists that you represent? I was always close to Italian artists. Since 1993, we exhibited a lot of Italian artists, Liliانا Moro, Grazia Toderi, Bernhard Rüdiger, Alfredo Pirri. Our gallery is now representing Michele Ciacciofera, Luca Vitone. Starting a collaboration

with Piero Gilardi is a great chance. I like the Arte Povera, a major movement in the twentieth century history of art. Piero Gilardi was always in advance: the ecological imperative a few decades before many others, the presentiment of divided societies by supporting the struggling Turin workers in the 70's. Then, more recently the passion for new interactive technologies. This commitment to social and artistic ecology will give him the idea of the Parco d'Arte Vivente in Turin (where his Foundation is located) an open space for established and young artists that he invites with an unfailing support. All this is so important in our today's world. I love the shape of Piero Gilardi's works «pleasant», colourful, approachable almost seductively attractive like the «Tappeti-Natura» that he developed since the 60's. Piero Gilardi is incredibly



close to artists we are already representing as Maria Thereza Alves, Allan Sekula, Jimmie Durham, Enrique Ramirez, Luca Vitone...

What dynamics are at work in the international art market? Unfortunately globalization generates

financial concentration and mega galleries. Art shouldn't only become a department of the luxury industry. At our tiny scale, we are trying to be faithful to our commitments. We are optimistic, future is unpredictable.

Piero Gilardi seduto sull'opera "Aigues Tortes" d 2007, polyurethane foam, unique artwork, 70 x 420 cm



Piero Gilardi, azione di strada all'interno di una protesta contro l'impiego dell'energia nucleare, Caorso Italy, 1987