

# Massimo Bartolini

## Studio Matters + 1

**Exhibition** 1 February – 14 April 2013

**Massimo Bartolini makes immersive, experiential, spatial art. Rather than put work in a space, he tends to make work out of the space itself, modifying it, sometimes subtly, sometimes with maximum impact, to produce sculpture which is activated as the viewer occupies it. This exhibition admits us to the core of his practice, showing one recent large-scale work in the context of a selection of small objects from the artist's studio, exhibited here for the first time.**

The studio matters to Bartolini. 'I like to stay in the studio' he says in one of the conversations that shaped the exhibition. In the studio, he makes things on his own, thinking while making, thinking through making, allowing his ideas to be, in his words, 'upgraded by chance' while he plays around with materials. He is better known, however, for work made outside the studio, with teams of specialists – by, again in his words – Massimo Bartolini plus at least one other person. This present project turns around one such work – *La strada di sotto*, a field of coloured lights of the kind used during street celebrations in Sicily. The lights glow as a visitor approaches, their intensity rising and falling in response to a voice in a film in a next-door room.

There is no model for this vast sculpture in the group of smaller works that accompanies it. The small sculptures – objects that usually don't need the help of any '+1' for their realisation – are never models or maquettes, have no relation to larger sculptures and will never be scaled up into major public works. They are studioworks, uncertain objects whose status and meaning are in flux. They are containers for thought, or maybe impulses towards thought, objects that the artist has recognised as coinciding formally and conceptually with what he is thinking about: 'Here in the studio is where I really think. But since I'm not a conceptual artist, I need something to do while I'm thinking ...'

Bartolini's work is often talked about in terms of metamorphosis and experimentation – work which changes space and our experience of it and which acknowledges, in its finished form, the processes by which it was made. This present decision to look at one major sculpture in the context of a selection of small studioworks seems part of this, and works to draw the viewer further into the magic of Bartolini's visual appeal.

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The  
Fruitmarket  
**Gallery**



Top: **Massimo Bartolini** *La strada di sotto* (The Street Below), 2011  
 Courtesy the artist and Massimo de Carlo Gallery, Milan/London.  
 Photograph: Mariangela Insana

Below: **Massimo Bartolini** *Chair*, 1997  
 Courtesy the artist, Frith Street Gallery, London  
 and Massimo de Carlo Gallery, Milan/London.  
 Photograph: Lorenzo Lessi

The exhibition is curated by Dr Fiona Bradley, the Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh. It is accompanied by a new publication which includes a conversation between Massimo Bartolini, Fiona Bradley and Philippe Van Cauteren, Director of S.M.A.K, Ghent, as well as the artist's own, often idiosyncratic, descriptions of his works.

#### Notes to Editors

**Massimo Bartolini** was born in 1962, Cecina, Tuscany, Italy. His work *Untitled (wave)*, 1997–2012 was one of the highlights of DOCUMENTA (13) in 2012.

**The Fruitmarket Gallery** aims to make contemporary art accessible, without compromising art or underestimating audiences.

The Gallery presents world-class, thought-provoking and challenging art made by both Scottish and international artists in an environment that is welcoming, engaging, informative and always free. The Gallery aims to give audiences the confidence to enjoy contemporary art and to understand the importance of art, artists, culture and creativity and their impact on individual and collective lives.

The Gallery's creative programme includes exhibitions, commissions, interpretation, education and publishing in both print and electronic forms. Gallery facilities include a bookshop and a café. The Gallery is physically accessible and family-friendly.

The exhibition is organised in collaboration with The Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, S.M.A.K., Ghent, who will show the studioworks together with a different installation – *Organi (Organs)* – in June 2013. S.M.A.K. is a relatively new museum and is renowned both for its permanent collection and for its provocative exhibitions. The new museum opened to the public on 7 May 1999.

# Workshop

## Space Exploration

*Wednesday 13 February, 11am–5pm. Free. 12 places for 15–18 year olds.*

Inspired by the work of Massimo Bartolini, this playful workshop led by artist Juliana Capes involves using unexpected media to explore ideas of space, intervention and installation. **To book or to find out more** please contact Caitlin Page on **0131 226 8186** or email **caitlin@fruitmarket.co.uk**

# Seminar

## Work/Table: Thinking through Making

*Wednesday 27 February, 6–7.30pm. £5 full/£3 conc. Refreshments available from 5.30pm.*

Art historian Jo Applin (University of York), artist Claire Barclay and curator Philippe Van Cauteren (S.M.A.K., Ghent) consider how artists test out ideas and materials by making work on a small scale and working towards larger plans. Chaired by Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery.

# Tours

## Learning Preview

*Friday 22 February, 5–7pm. Free. For teachers and group leaders. Refreshments served.*

A tour of the current exhibition and preview of the forward programme, led by Learning Programme Manager Caitlin Page and artist Carla Scott Fullerton. Pick up the Gallery's new free resources for teachers and group leaders and discuss ways you can use the exhibitions with your groups.

## Audio Tour

*Wednesday 13 March, 2–3pm. Free. 10 places.*

A tour of the exhibition with assistive listening devices, for visitors who are hard of hearing.

## Descriptive Tour

*Wednesday 13 March, 6.30–8pm. Free. 10 places.*

Artist Juliana Capes leads a tour of the exhibition, specifically designed for visually impaired visitors, including detailed descriptions of Massimo Bartolini's work and practice.

## Friday tours 2pm. Free.

Drop in any Friday for an informal tour.

# Talks

## Artist's Talk

*Thursday 7 March, 6.30pm. Free.*

Massimo Bartolini in conversation with Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery.

## Booking is recommended for all events.

To book your place call **0131 226 8181** or email **bookshop@fruitmarket.co.uk**