

Maria Cristina Carlini
**MATERIE
VIVENTI****Materie viventi**

**Maria Cristina Carlini's Installations at Palazzo Reale
Presented as part of SUART 2026 (Sustainable ART)**

Curated by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico

Milan, Palazzo Reale | 10 July – 30 August 2026

Milan, 8 July 2026 – **Palazzo Reale** presents **Materie viventi** by **Maria Cristina Carlini**, one of the leading figures in Italian sculpture over the past few decades. Installed in the Courtyard of Honour and the Garden from 10 July to 30 August 2026, the exhibition is presented as part of **SUART 2026**, an event comprising an international conference on the sustainability of art and an exhibition by the sculptor.

The exhibition, promoted by the Municipality of Milan – Culture Department and produced by Palazzo Reale and the **Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation** in collaboration with **Ethicando Association**, is curated by **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, art critic and founder of the **SUART** initiative.

Materie viventi will be inaugurated on **Thursday, 9 July 2026**, at the conclusion of the SUART 2026 conference, offering visitors an **immersive experience** in one of the city's most iconic venues.

Maria Cristina Carlini's artistic research, developed over more than fifty years of practice, is rooted in a **direct relationship with matter** - often natural or reclaimed - understood as a living organism and a bearer of memory. In **Materie viventi**, this approach takes shape through essential interventions and an intense dialogue with space, where sustainability and transformation emerge as a tangible artistic practice.

The exhibition brings together **two of the artist's monumental works**, conceived as presences in dialogue with the architecture of Palazzo Reale and its outdoor spaces: **Bosco (2012)**, in the **Courtyard of Honour**, and **Filemone e Bauci (2021)**, in the **Garden**. In a reciprocal and circular interplay, the sculptures accompany visitors on a sensory journey, enhanced by a carefully conceived lighting design that amplifies their symbolic resonance.

BOSCO (2012) – The sculpture consists of 19 iron elements arranged in a spiral, like a growing organism that invites the eye to move from the edge towards the centre. The choice of iron - resilient yet susceptible to oxidation - clearly expresses Carlini's poetics: essential forms that preserve traces and memories. The modular rhythm evokes a community of trees, a "bosco" (forest) that is not represented but suggested, where the verticality of the forms and the intervals between the volumes become a space for movement and contemplation.

FILEMONE E BAUCI (2021) – Displayed in the Garden, the work brings together reclaimed wood, iron, and gold, creating a tension between fragility and permanence, humble materials and preciousness. The title refers to the myth recounted by Ovid, a story of hospitality and fidelity that here becomes a metaphor for care: care for one another and for the natural world.

Palazzo Reale, Milano | 10 luglio – 30 agosto 2026 | palazzorealemilano.it

Una mostra

PALAZZO REALE



Comune di
Milano



Fondazione
Maria
Cristina
Carlini

Con

Betting On Italy



ETHICANDO

Nell'ambito di

SUART 2026

Patrocini



Palazzo Reale
Archivio
Vigorelli



Centro Studi
del Libro



Fondazione
Sanseverino

Maria Cristina Carlini
**MATERIE
 VIVENTI**

The wooden surfaces, marked by their past, enter into dialogue with the metal intervention and with gold, which emerges not as an ornamental element but as a symbolic light, a promise of regeneration. Between architecture and nature, the sculpture establishes a direct dialogue with the surrounding landscape and with the idea of transformation as an ethical, as well as a formal, possibility.

*"The work stems from the need to bring together past and present. Reclaimed wood bears witness to a previous life, while steel is more closely associated with an idea of technology and contemporaneity," says the artist **Maria Cristina Carlini**. "My artistic language is deeply rooted in the primordial, the archaic, and memory. It is in these that I seek and rediscover the essence. I have the feeling of reaching something profound, of stripping away the superfluous and arriving at the heart, the primordial core of things and of ourselves. In this sense, memory is a fundamental element because it represents our identity. My aim is to generate an emotion that can arise from an archaic memory shared by many people. I seek the essence because it is there that a shared human sensibility can be found, for it springs from a deep ancestral source. Materials inspire me. I seek them out everywhere, especially wood, to give them a new life. Their stories live on in my sculptures, transformed into a contemporary narrative."*

*"In *Materie viventi*, sustainability is never an ideological premise or a programmatic intention, but the natural outcome of a profound relationship between the artist and matter. Maria Cristina Carlini immerses herself in her materials - often reclaimed - listens to their ancestral pulse and accompanies them through an alchemical transformation that restores them to new life, giving rise to compelling reflections on the destiny of humankind, the natural world, and the identity-defining values of our own time," comments **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, curator of the exhibition and founder of **SUART (Sustainable ART)**. "Carlini's works thus become vehicles for reflection on the great existential and social questions of the present - from safeguarding the planet to the crisis of values - in full harmony with the leitmotif of SUART 2026, which explores the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability in contemporary art."*

Maria Cristina Carlini

She is one of the leading figures in contemporary Italian sculpture. Her artistic journey began in the early 1970s in Palo Alto, where she initially devoted herself to ceramics. She subsequently expanded her research through the use of a variety of materials - including stoneware, iron, Corten steel, reclaimed wood, and paper - developing an original artistic language founded on the relationship between matter, memory, nature, and transformation. Throughout her career, she has created monumental sculptures as well as medium- and small-scale works, now held in numerous public and private collections across Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Several of her monumental installations have been permanently installed at institutional venues and in public spaces around the world. Her work has been accompanied by major publications and critical essays by distinguished scholars and art historians, including Paolo Campiglio, Luciano Caramel, Claudio Cerritelli, Vittoria Coen, Guo Xiao Chuan, Martina Corgnati, Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, Gillo Dorfles, Carlo Franza, Maria Fratelli, Chiara Gatti, Flaminio Gualdoni, Yacouba Konaté, Frédérique Malaval, Laurence Pauliac, Elena Pontiggia, Courtney Stell. She lives and works in Milan, where in 2025 she opened the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation, established with the aim of preserving and promoting her artistic legacy while fostering dialogue with cultural institutions, museums, and universities.

Palazzo Reale, Milano | 10 luglio – 30 agosto 2026 | palazzorealemilano.it

Una mostra

PALAZZO REALE



Con

Betting On Italy



Nell'ambito di

SUART 2026

Patrocini



Maria Cristina Carlini
**MATERIE
VIVENTI**

Among her most recent institutional recognitions, in 2026 several of her works were selected for SUSTART 2026 at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, as part of an international forum devoted to the relationship between art, culture, and sustainability. In the same year, the artistic collection of the Horti of the Almo Collegio Borromeo in Pavia was enriched by the addition of the monumental sculpture *Origine* (2019), permanently installed within the park.

SUART 2026 – (S)ustainable ART)

The 2026 edition builds on the path established by previous editions, developed in international contexts and in dialogue with academic and cultural institutions: in 2024 at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, alongside the solo exhibition of Antonietta Viganone, and in 2025 in Milan, at Fabbrica del Vapore during Milan Art Week, with the exhibition dedicated to Tiziano Calcarì.

The academic partners of SUART 2026 are Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, the University of Milan, the University of Florence, and UnitelmaSapienza University of Rome. The event as a whole is also held under the patronage of - among others - the Associazione Cento Amici del Libro, the Antonietta Viganone Foundation, and the Sangregorio Giancarlo Foundation, together with other public and private institutions. The forum and the inauguration of the exhibition are held under the patronage of the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy.

INFORMATION

Title: *Maria Cristina Carlini. Materie viventi*

Curator: Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico

Location: Milan, Palazzo Reale, Courtyard of Honour and Garden

Dates: 10 July – 30 August 2026

Times: from Monday to Sunday, from 8.00 am to 8.30 pm (subject to any changes to the opening arrangements of the gates of Palazzo Reale)

Admission: free

Press preview with the Artist and the Curator: 9 July, 10.00–11.00 am

An exhibition by the Municipality of Milan – Culture Department, Palazzo Reale, and the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation, in collaboration with Ethicando Association.

SUART 2026 Press Office (Conference and Exhibition):

SEC Newgate Italia: Cinzia Ghilotti cinzia.ghilotti@secnewgate.it; Laura Gialdi laura.gialdi@secnewgate.it

Municipality of Milan – Culture Department

Head of Communications and Cultural Fundraising: Elena Conenna elenamaria.conenna@comune.milano.it

Press Office: Silvia Egiziano silvia.egiziano@comune.milano.it

Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Press Office:

IBC Irma Bianchi Communication info@irmabianchi.it

Palazzo Reale, Milano | 10 luglio – 30 agosto 2026 | palazzorealemilano.it

Una mostra

PALAZZO REALE



Con

Betting On Italy



Nell'ambito di

SUART 2026

Patrocini

