



Brera Art Gallery

Aldo Bassetti Room

Via Brera, 28, Milan

**Presentation of the monograph
"Maria Cristina Carlini. Materie viventi"
edited by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico
Silvana Editoriale**

**Wednesday 16 September 2026
from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm**

Speakers will include, amongst others:

Chiara Rostagno, deputy director of the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan

Domenico Piraina, Director of Culture and Director of Palazzo Reale in Milan

Alessandro Coscia, Exhibitions and Events Coordinator at the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan

Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, art critic, curator and author of the monograph

Maria Cristina Carlini, artist

press release

Presentation of the monograph "Maria Cristina Carlini. Living Materials" at Brera.

The monograph, published as part of SUART 2026 and edited by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, traces the sculptor's exploration of matter, nature, memory and sustainability.

Milan, 7 September 2026 – From the success of the exhibition **Materie viventi** at Palazzo Reale to the Pinacoteca di Brera: on Wednesday, 16 September, from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm, the monograph **Maria Cristina Carlini. Materie viventi**, edited by art critic **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico** and published by **Silvana Editoriale**, will be presented in the **Aldo Bassetti Room** at the **Pinacoteca di Brera**.

Speakers will include **Chiara Rostagno**, deputy director of the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan; **Domenico Piraina**, Director of Culture and Director of Palazzo Reale in Milan; **Alessandro Coscia**, exhibitions and events coordinator at the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan; **Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico**, art critic, curator and author of the monograph; and **Maria Cristina Carlini**, artist.

The event is organised by **Ethicando Association** and **the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation**, in collaboration with the **Pinacoteca di Brera**, and forms part of the programme for **SUART 2026 – Sustainable ART**, an international event dedicated to the theme of sustainability in art, now in its third edition, **which has brought together research, interdisciplinary dialogue and the exhibition experience within a single project.**

The book offers a comprehensive account of Maria Cristina Carlini's artistic journey and her practice, developed over more than fifty years through a constant engagement with matter, space and nature. Iron, reclaimed wood, stoneware, steel, gold and other materials are not merely means of expression, but elements that embody memory and transformation, through which the artist explores the relationship between human beings and the environment, and between humanity and its own time.

This publication documents and provides an in-depth exploration of the exhibition "Maria Cristina Carlini. Materie viventi", 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, curated by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, which brought the Cortile d'Onore (Courtyard of Honour) and the Garden of Palazzo Reale to life from 10 July to 30 August 2026.

The two monumental installations, "Bosco" (2012), comprising nineteen iron elements arranged in a spiral formation in the Courtyard of Honour, and "Filemone e Bauci" (2021), made from reclaimed wood, iron and gold and installed in the Garden, created an exhibition journey in which matter, space and nature entered into direct dialogue with the public. In "Filemone e Bauci", the reference to the Ovidian myth and to the values of hospitality and fidelity opens up a contemporary reflection on our relationship with others and with nature.

This monograph captures and explores this experience in depth, whilst also broadening the perspective to encompass Carlini's entire artistic career, her evolution, her works and her presence in major Italian and international public contexts.

The volume opens with institutional forewords **by the Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala; the Deputy Mayor, Tommaso Sacchi; and the Director of Culture and Director of Palazzo Reale, Domenico Piraina.** Within the volume, critical reflection on the sculptor's work is interwoven with the theme of sustainability; understood not merely as the reuse of materials, but as a broader relationship between art, society and the environment.

For Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico, in fact, the sustainability of art cannot be reduced solely to the reuse of materials, but represents a broader cultural paradigm, capable of questioning the processes of artistic production, the ways in which art is experienced and, more generally, the relationship between art and society. From this perspective, Carlini's work takes on symbolic significance: iron, reclaimed wood, gold and other materials become tools for reflecting on transformation, nature and the relationship between human beings and the environment.

The publication also explores the concepts of sustainability and sustainable art through a historical overview spanning from the 17th century to the present day, situating artistic research and critical reflection within a broader cultural context.

The book launch at Brera thus marks the culmination of a project that has brought together contemporary art, research, institutions and sustainability, through a fruitful collaboration between the City of Milan, Palazzo Reale, Ethicando Association and the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation.

To complement the event, **the gallery will host a selection of the artist's works**, which engage in a subtle yet intense dialogue with the space and the atmosphere of the evening. Among these are **Pietà** (stoneware, 70 × 60 × 40 cm, 2010) and **Eva** (steel and wood, 220 × 123 × 70 cm, 2018), works in which the material, in its various forms, becomes both the embodiment and the measure of a creative exploration that traverses the body, memory and the human condition.

SUART 2026

The third edition of SUART - Sustainable ART opened on 9 July 2026 at Palazzo Reale with an international forum on sustainability in art, sponsored by the Ministry of Enterprise and Made in Italy and organised by the Ethicando Association, through the 'Arte sostenibile' research platform, and by the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation.

The forum involved the City of Milan, Palazzo Reale, Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, the University of Milan, the University of Florence and UnitelmaSapienza University in Rome, alongside representatives from institutions, the professions, business, the arts and culture.

The themes explored in the monograph and by SUART form part of the broader international debate on the culture of sustainability and sit within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Goals and the UNESCO Culture|2030 Thematic Indicators, which recognise that culture plays a significant role in sustainable development processes.

With the presentation of "Maria Cristina Carlini. Materie viventi" at the Pinacoteca di Brera, SUART 2026 continues its research into the sustainability of art, focusing on the role of culture and aesthetic experience in fostering greater environmental and social awareness.

Maria Cristina Carlini

She is one of the most influential figures in contemporary Italian sculpture. Her artistic career began in the early 1970s in Palo Alto, where she initially devoted herself to working with ceramics. She subsequently broadened her artistic practice through the use of different materials - including stoneware, iron, Corten steel, reclaimed wood and paper - developing an original artistic language based on the relationship between matter, memory, nature and transformation.

Throughout her career, she has created monumental sculptures as well as small and medium-sized works, which are now held in numerous public and private collections across Europe, America and Asia. Several monumental installations are permanently situated in institutional venues and urban spaces around the world. Her work has been accompanied by major publications and critical essays by 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 and Cortney Stell.

She lives and works in Milan, where in 2025 she established the Maria Cristina Carlini ETS Foundation, set up with the aim of preserving and promoting her artistic legacy and fostering dialogue with cultural institutions, museums and universities.

Among her most recent projects, in 2026 some of her works were selected for SUSTART 2026 at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, as part of an international forum dedicated to the relationship between art, culture and sustainability. On 21 June 2026, the art collection of the Horti dell'Almo Collegio Borromeo in Pavia was enriched by the monumental sculpture Origine (2019), which became part of the park's permanent exhibition. From 10 July to 30 August 2026, the Palazzo Reale in Milan

hosted the exhibition Maria Cristina Carlini. Materie viventi featuring Bosco (2012) and Filemone e Bauci (2021) in the Courtyard of Honour and the Garden.

Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico

Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico is a writer, curator and critic of contemporary art, a cultural economist and lecturer, with a multidisciplinary background in economics, philosophy, theology and art history. Throughout his career, he has held academic posts at Italian and international institutions, including the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, the Polytechnic University of Milan, the University of Milan and Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid. He is the scientific director of the 'Arte Sostenibile' platform, dedicated to research into the relationship between art, culture and sustainability, and the organiser of the international events SUART and SUSTART. He is also a curator of exhibitions and cultural events in Italy and abroad (China, the USA, Europe), a television commentator and the scientific and artistic director of cultural institutions.

President of the Ethicando Association since 2008, he is the author of numerous monographs on contemporary art and contributes to national newspapers and publishing houses. His work focuses in particular on the criticism and hermeneutics of contemporary art, the economics of culture, the enhancement of cultural and territorial heritage, and the promotion of Made in Italy.

Event details

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Pinacoteca di Brera – Aldo Bassetti Room

[Via Brera 28, Milan](#)

Speakers:

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Organised by: Associazione Ethicando and Fondazione Maria Cristina Carlini ETS

In collaboration with: Pinacoteca di Brera

Book details

MARIA CRISTINA CARLINI. MATERIE VIVENTI | LIVING MATERIALS

edited by Marco Eugenio Di Giandomenico

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