



*Il Muro*, 1972-92, installation in Alighiero Boetti's house in Todi, Courtesy Agata Boetti

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**7 July 2016**

**ALIGHIERO BOETTI**  
**TORNABUONI ART LONDON**  
**4 OCTOBER 2016 – 27 JANUARY 2017**  
3 OCTOBER (6:00 – 8:00pm) Preview

Tornabuoni Art London is proud to announce a solo exhibition of Italian conceptual artist Alighiero Boetti. An homage to Boetti's career and the influence of his work, the show will be presenting a selection of the artist's rarely seen artworks articulated around the original *Il Muro* (*The Wall*), shown for the first time in a commercial gallery.

*Il Muro*, originally conceived in Boetti's apartment in Trastevere in 1970, evolved throughout the artist's life and only reached its final state upon his death in 1994. It is composed of 74 pieces including 15 of the artist's own works, five drawings by his daughter Agata and a photograph of her as a child. One can also find various memories and newspaper cuttings such as the announcement of Pablo Picasso's death on the front page of the Kabul Times, a map of the most important waterfalls around the world and several original photographs. Boetti took *Il Muro* – simultaneously a record of his experimental artistic practice and a source of inspiration – with him to each of his subsequent studios, suggesting that the work's vital importance as an integral part of the artist's creative process.

The exhibition at Tornabuoni Art London aims to bring the artist's evolution to the fore, from his initial sources of inspiration to the artist's most sought-after works, highlighting the essential tensions within Boetti's production: private and public life, authorship and appropriation, introspection and geopolitics, finished and unfinished, planning and chance. "We are honoured by the trust of Agata Boetti, who is generously allowing us to bring *Il Muro* – not displayed since 2013 – to the London public," says gallery director Ursula Casamonti.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Alighiero Boetti (Turin, 1940 – Rome, 1994) briefly studied business and economics at the University of Turin, before starting his career as a self-taught artist.

Initially associated with the Arte Povera movement, Boetti had his first solo show in 1967 at the Christian Stein gallery in Turin. Two years later, the *When attitudes become form* exhibition at the Kunsthalle Basel marked Boetti's detachment from Arte Povera in favour of Conceptual Art. His works thereafter focused on codes of classification and communication, working with numbers, maps and alphabets and playing with a variety of materials and techniques reminiscent of ancient Asian craftsmanship.

Boetti's passion for Afghanistan began in the early 1970s when he and his wife Annemarie opened the "One Hotel" in Kabul. There, Boetti began working on the *Mappe* (Maps), entrusting the realisation of his famous tapestries to Afghan female embroiderers.

The revolutionary aspect of Boetti's work resides in the creation of a paradigm within which the people involved in the creative process are invited to act, radically questioning the role of the artist and the impact of chance, sequence, repetition and authorship in the creation of a work of art. His work and attitude have strongly influenced the next generation of artists in Italy and around the world.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **ABOUT TORNABUONI ART**

Tornabuoni Art London was launched in October 2015 by Ursula Casamonti after 20 years of managing Tornabuoni Arte alongside her father and brother. The gallery was founded in Florence in 1981 on via de' Tornabuoni which gave it its name, and has since opened new exhibition spaces in Crans Montana (1993), Milan (1995), Forte dei Marmi (2004) and Paris (2009).

Specialising in Post-War Italian art and exhibiting artists such as Fontana, Burri, Scheggi, Castellani, Bonalumi, Boetti and Dadamaino, the gallery also has a permanent collection of significant works by major Italian artists of the Novecento, such as de Chirico, Morandi, Balla or Severini, as well as International 20th century Avant-garde masters, such as Picasso, Mirò, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Wesselmann, Warhol and Basquiat.

The gallery has also for many years participated in all major international art fairs – Frieze Masters, Fiac, Art Basel, TEFAF – bringing its exhibition programme based on Italian Post-War art, while also promoting a few emerging Italian artists.

Tornabuoni Art London's annual exhibition programme revolves around ambitious monographic exhibitions of post-war Italian masters, themed group shows, as well as one exhibition a year dedicated to an emerging Italian artist. Following the success of the inaugural exhibition dedicated to a retrospective of the work of Lucio Fontana, Tornabuoni Art presented group show *The Die Is Cast*, about Italian abstraction, and dedicated its second solo exhibition to great Italian sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro. Its latest group show, Italian Pop introduced the works of a less known current of the Italian 1960s.

The gallery also works closely with museums and institutions for expertise and guidance and with its experience and thorough knowledge of the work of the artists it represents, it has established itself as an advisor for both private and public collections.

For more information on the gallery's history and other activities, please visit

[www.tornabuoniart.com](http://www.tornabuoniart.com)

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