

# tornabuoniArt

LONDON



*Frappa*, 2016  
Photograph by Marco Mioli

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**12 May 2016**

## **FRANCESCA PASQUALI\_METAMORPHOSES**

**29 JUNE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2016**

28 JUNE (6 – 6.30 pm) Artist in conversation with Fatoş Üstek

28 JUNE (6.30 – 8.30 pm) Private view

3 JULY (2 – 5 pm) *Spiderwall* installation preview at MOCA London

Tornabuoni Art London is proud to present *Francesca Pasquali\_Metamorphoses*, the first of a series of solo exhibitions taking place in the summer months, introducing emerging Italian artists to the London art scene. Giving a platform for contemporary Italian art is a project very dear to gallery owner Ursula Casamonti, who explains: "The idea of opening our normally Modern-focused exhibition programme to emerging artists has been at the top of the London gallery's agenda from the very start. For our first summer in London, we wanted to introduce Francesca Pasquali, a young artist whose work Tornabuoni Art has been following and promoting for many years. While Pasquali has encountered great success in Italy, she is little known abroad and we are proud to be presenting her first solo exhibition in London."

*Metamorphoses*, created in collaboration with Francesca Pasquali and the Francesca Pasquali Archive, showcases her latest works as well as site-specific installations especially realised by the artist for Tornabuoni Art London. At the exhibition's core lies the basis for Pasquali's research: the relationship between nature and artifice. The evolutionary and mutative state of microcosmic textures of plants and animals is mirrored in the weaving of recycled plastic materials that shape the artist's sculptural creations, which constantly change in relation to the spectator. From hard to soft, from alien to familiar, the materials interact with the visitors who become actors and co-authors of the works as they move around, touch and enter them.

A keen observer of the materiality and transience of objects, Francesca Pasquali is influenced by the heritage of the *Arte Povera* movement to repurpose mundane objects such as drinking straws and elastic bands, cobweb dusters and broom bristles. Her labour intensive creative process confers on these humble materials a new value and a second life as artworks, providing new ways of experiencing familiar objects. Starting with a basic structure – a net, a metal cage or a plank of wood – each piece develops organically, the artist working instinctively with the material to arrive to the finished work. The audience is invited to enter the dialogue with the material by engaging bodily with the artwork and projecting onto it their own individual and personal experiences.

The exhibition at Tornabuoni Art London will display around twenty works, of which two will be large-scale installations. The first will be located in the window and the entrance of the gallery, where visitors will be welcomed by cocoon-like structures made of polyurethane foam that invade the space like mutating organisms. The show then continues with a series of "object works" in which Pasquali explores the *Frappa* shape created by assembling spirals of neoprene. The gallery will also be exhibiting works from the artist's *Straws* series – perhaps her most iconic – made of thousands of coloured drinking straws, cut to varying lengths and assembled to create plastic and organic tri-dimensional patterns. In the space below, the *ScopaMI* installation will cover the floor with a compact surface made of black plastic broom bristles. The double meaning of "*scopami*" as the literal sweeping of the floor and the expression referred to having sex suits the more intimate setting of the lower gallery, where visitors are invited to physically experience the work by touching and walking on the bristles.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue, specially published for the occasion by Forma Edizioni, Florence. Elaborated as a concept book with original sketches and annotations by the artist, the monograph explores the themes of Pasquali's research through records of large-scale installation and the process of their creation. It is completed by an introductory essay by writer and independent curator Fatoş Üstek, a text by MOCA London director Dr. Michael Petry, and an interview of the artist by ICA curator Matt Williams.

Adding to Pasquali's intervention in London will be a large-scale installation entitled *Spiderwall*, on show throughout July at MOCA London and curated by the museum's director, Dr. Michael Petry. Made up of thousands of simple, colourful cobweb dusters, the immersive work – a plastic cloud floating in the air – illustrates the latest step in Francesca Pasquali's artistic research.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Born in Bologna in 1980, Francesca Pasquali studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna.

Her research stems from the observation of natural shapes whose structural texture the artists emulates, transforming plastic, industrial materials into complex and elaborate objects and installations. New technologies are an integral part of the artist's practice, which includes sound, light and video installations like the recent *Glasswall* (2015), a kinetic and interactive work realised in collaboration with Mary Bauermeister for the *Fluxus* exhibition at C.U.BO. Centro Unipol in Bologna.

A finalist of the Cairo Prize 2015 and Second Prize at the Henraux Foundation Prize in 2014, Francesca Pasquali has also been invited to participate in several major international art fairs, and her works are housed in important private collections and public institutions around Italy.

### **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 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* introduces 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.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Fatoş Üstek** is an independent curator and writer based in London. She currently is Art Fund Curator at fig-2, recently curated 50 projects in 50 weeks at the ICA Studio, London. Üstek acted as associate curator for the 10th Gwangju Biennale in South

Korea, is a member of AICA Tr and a regular contributor to international art magazines and exhibition catalogues. She has curated an opera in five acts at DRAF, London; an exhibition trilogy entitled Now Expanded that took place at Kunstfabrik, Berlin; Tent, Rotterdam and DRAF, London among various group shows in Europe and Turkey. Ustek is founding editor of Nowiswere Contemporary Art Magazine between 2008-2012, editor of Unexpected Encounters Situations of Contemporary Art and Architecture since 2000 published by Zorlu Center, Istanbul (Turkish Only, 2012; English Only, upcoming); is the author of Book of Confusions, 2012, published by Rossi&Rossi, London.

**Matt Williams** has been the Curator at the ICA since late 2010. Prior to his appointment at the ICA he was Curator/Director of the International Project Space, Birmingham from 2008 to 2010. During his tenure at the IPS, Williams worked with a number of emerging and established artists including Anna Barham, Simon Denny, Michaela Eichwald, Megan Fraser, Melanie Gilligan, Michael Krebber, Josef Strau and Emily Wardill amongst others. He is co-editor of the publication *NOVEL* which focused on artists writing, texts and poetry. Since his appointment at the ICA he has presented events by a variety of artists and musicians including Kai Althoff, Ed Atkins, Dean Blunt, Keren Cytter, Luke Fowler, Factory Floor Just Jam, NTS Radio and the inaugural Artists Self-Publishing Book Fair. He is also responsible for the group exhibitions *Remote Control* and *Journal*, plus solo presentations by Lutz Bacher, Neil Beloufa, Bernadette Corporation, Eloise Hawser, Bjarne Melgaard, Vivianne Sassen, Hannah Sawtell, Martine Syms and Zhang Ding.

#### **ABOUT MOCA LONDON**

The Museum of Contemporary Art, London was founded in 1994 as a project based museum by artist and curator Dr. Michael Petry. No formal built space was to be required to mount a series of international exhibitions that incorporated sculpture, video, painting, photography and installation. Projects were curated for virtual and specific sites, and these past projects can be seen in the Archive. In January 2004 MOCA opened a project space in South London in the Bellenden Renewal Area to initiate a series of exhibitions that were locally based but global in focus. The Project Space exists to offer established and upcoming artists the possibility of making non-commercial work, developing the projects over various periods of time to suit both the artist and MOCA. Projects emerge when they are ready. This co-operative style of working means that the Project Space has no formal exhibition structure, and works are in situ when they are ready.

For more information about MOCA London, visit [www.mocalondon.co.uk](http://www.mocalondon.co.uk)

For more information on the gallery's history and other activities, please visit [www.tornabuoniart.com](http://www.tornabuoniart.com)

Tornabuoni Art  
46 Albemarle Street W1S 4JN, London  
Phone: +44 (0) 20 7629 2172, [info@tornabuoniart.com](mailto:info@tornabuoniart.com)

For press enquiries please contact:

Sarah Norton, SUTTON  
+44 (0) 20 7183 3577, [sarah@suttonpr.com](mailto:sarah@suttonpr.com)