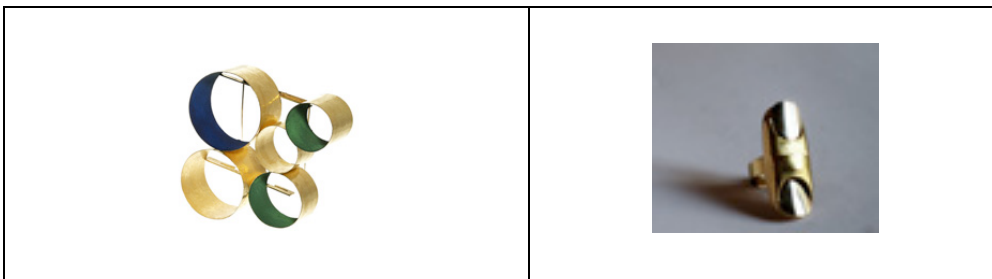


**4 PADOVANI – 1 TORINESE**



**Giampaolo Babetto, Bruno Martinazzi,  
Renzo Pasquale, Graziano Visintin, Annamaria Zanella**

**9 – 30 June 2012**

**Opening: Saturday, 9 June 6.30pm**

In devoting our last exhibition before the summer break to contemporary Italian auteur jewellery, we want to furnish yet further proof, if proof be needed, of the fact that it by now beyond all doubt belongs to the international art scene. It might on occasion seem as if the Mediterranean region, notably Italy, has little share in the vital and richly faceted discourse that spans the world – from Melbourne to Tokyo, from New York to Stockholm, from London via Amsterdam to Munich. With our exhibition, on the other hand, we hope to show what the specifically Italian response to the challenge set by international endeavours in this field looks like.

The careers of **Babetto, Pasquale, Visintin e Zanella** began in the footsteps of Maestro Mario Pinton at the celebrated Istituto d'Arte Pietro Selvatico in Padua, where the spirit that has placed art jewellery between applied geometry and sculptural transformation of form in space still reigns supreme.

The history of ‘arte cinetica e programmata’ also plays a pivotal role there for the authors of our panorama. Along with awareness of antiquity and the local colour specific to the Veneto, those factors form the fertile soil on which what is known as the Paduan School continues to thrive – not institutional

uniformity as such but rather a particular atmosphere, which in reality is shaped by the personalities of individuals who cultivate it and feed it and export it all over the world: among them in fact **Babetto, Pasquale, Visintin and Zanella**.

They have designed our exhibition as a fascinating journey: **Giampaolo Babetto** (\*1947) is unsurpassed at conjuring with the elements of his art between working in gold and silver and design.

Awareness of pure aestheticism is the red thread that runs through his œuvre, allowing him to react to exacting stringency with a bravura that is disturbing in its dramatic intensity. **Renzo Pasquale** (\*1947) also remains true to the legacy of Padua although he stands out with a lavish use of stones. With their brilliancy and light, they add poetic values as metaphors for time and space, as allies in the material visualisation of idea and thought. **Graziano Visintin** (\*1954) unites gold with painterly gesture, declaring elegant surfaces the terrain for informal, as it were, graphic touches by manipulating the brilliant look of his jewellery with niello and pigments to multiply their ‘raison d’être’. **Annamaria Zanella** (\*1966) has long since taken leave of anything that smacks of classicism. Instead she invokes the magic of materials that are not conventionally associated with jewellery, investing them with fantastic luxury in a new setting. An artistic bias of this kind can induce the crossing of boundaries which redefines the parameters of the discussion about art and jewellery. This is a quality all our auteurs share.

The Grand Old Man of contemporary art jewellery, **Bruno Martinazzi** (\*1923), completes and crowns our presentation. At the age of eighty-nine, the distinguished outsider from Turin represents an utterly unique stance on the Italian and indeed the international, art jewellery scene. Sculptor, goldsmith and cultural philosopher – a complex and exceptionally forceful personality yet without any actual ties, a singular being. Starting with the inspiration he draws from ancient and historical writings, Martinazzi devotes himself to the ultimately everlasting human need to achieve perfect expression for the ineffable, the overarching universals – the *idea*, truth, creation, beauty. He succeeds by reducing the whole to a fragment, by the process of focusing. His work is definitely a high point in the striving for artistic identity and autonomy in jewellery.

A choice selection of drawings and ceramic objects is also included in the exhibition.

Opening hours:  
Wednesday – Saturday 3.30 pm – 7.30 pm  
By appointment: 331 331 16 81