

## PARANORMAL TONY OURSLER VS GUSTAVO ROL

Curated by Paolo Colombo  
3 November 2017 - 25 February 2018

The Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli continues the research on the topic of collecting and presents **PARANORMAL. TONY OURSLER VS GUSTAVO ROL**. The exhibition is an ideal collection that includes works by the American artist and a selection of objects belonging to his large collection revolving around the occult, alongside the works in the city collections by the painter and psychic Gustavo Rol, active in Turin in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The works were selected by **Tony Oursler** together with the exhibition curator Paolo Colombo and showcased in a space conceived by the artist himself. On this occasion, Oursler will also display **a new series of works, the *Ex Voto***, inspired by his visit to the Chiesa della Consolata in Turin. Marcella Pralormo, Director of the Pinacoteca Agnelli, curated the exhibition section on Gustavo Rol, with a long research work on the people that knew him, tracing and selecting, in tandem with Tony Oursler and Paolo Colombo, the paintings and objects that belonged to Rol, in Turin's private collections.

The father of video-sculpture, Tony Oursler is one of the most innovative artists to use video as an expressive means. Not only are his works expressed in the video image, but they use and combine sculpture, design, installation, multimedia projections, single projections (single channel projection), recordings and performances, also interacting with the spectator. Amongst his most well-known works are the projections of faces on round pieces of fabric and other materials, as much diverse as ephemeral, like smoke; faces that recite usually poems using a cryptic language and that are by all means apparitions projected onto objects with a sculptural presence.

**For years Oursler has been collecting objects, publications, ephemera about the paranormal**, letting himself be inspired for many of his works: photographs of ghosts, texts of pseudo-science, primitive technology for creating visual illusions, have developed into an archive that today amounts to over **15.000 elements**.

An interest that is rooted in the artist's family history: his grandfather, Charles Fulton Oursler, writer, journalist and script writer – author amongst other things of "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (1949), which inspired the famous 1960s film – frequently interacted with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, English writer who believed in spiritualism and the paranormal. He was also a close friend of Harry Houdini, and supported him in his battle against the scams of fake mediums in the 1920s, up to publishing the book "Spirit Mediums Exposed" (1930), which did indeed expose their scam techniques.

A personal path that finds countless ties with **Gustavo Rol**, born in 1903 into an affluent middle-class family from Turin. A personality out of the ordinary, an art lover and a painter himself, educated and charismatic: after working as journalist and bank clerk, he devoted his life to his greatest passion, the occult. His admirers have credited him with paranormal properties; his detractors have spoken of "mentalism". But Gustavo Rol always professed to be a mere researcher and experimenter, whose sole purpose was *"to encourage men to look beyond appearances and stimulate their intelligent spirit"*. A man who has lived through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, leaving a deep mark in the collective imagination and in the numerous international personalities he came into contact with: from Walt Disney to Marcello Mastroianni, from several presidents of the Italian Republic, such as Giuseppe Saragat and Luigi Einaudi, to president John Fitzgerald Kennedy to Queen Elizabeth II. Federico Fellini – whose two drawings are on display in the exhibition – defined him "baffling", and entertained a close friendship with him.

**Gucci** is Partner of the exhibition.

The **exhibition** design is by Marco Palmieri, **catalogue** published by Corraini.

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**Press office Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli**

Carola Serminato | Mob. +39 349 1299250| ufficiostampa@pinacoteca-agnelli.it

via Nizza 230, 10126 Torino - Tel. +39 011 0062713 fax +39 011 0062712 | www.pinacoteca-agnelli.it |

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Ticket: Full ticket € 10; Reduction € 8 groups, over65, conventions; Special reduction € 4 schools, children 6-16 years. Free ticket people with disabilities, children 0-6 years and Torino+Piemonte Card

The entrance to the museum is located in the library Corraini inside the Lingotto building, near the UCI cinemas. The elevators in the bookshop lead to the 4th floor where you will find the ticket office.

Opening hours: From Tuesday to Sunday, 10 AM – 7 PM; last entrance 6.15 PM| Closed on Monday

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