BIOGRAPHY

Marina Apollonio (Trieste, 1940) is an Italian artist and is considered one of the most representative figures of the international Optical-Kinetic art movement.
The daughter of the theorist Umbro Apollonio and of Fabiola Zannini, she grew up in a stimulating artistic context.
Having completed her higher education, she followed the painting courses of professor Giuseppe Santomaso at the Venice Academy of Fine Arts, where she devoted herself to industrial graphic design and architectural interior design.
In 1962 she began to research into perception and visual communication. After working in Paris as a designer in an important architectural studio, she returned to Italy in 1964 and made her first “Rilievi metallici”, which alternated sequences of colour, and her first “Dinamiche Circolari”.
She shared the desire of other exponents of Optical art to arrive at a depersonalised art, one opposed to the ideas of Abstraction Expressionism. She uses modern industrial materials in order to create calculated structures that, to the viewer’s eye, seemed to be transformed into dynamic and fluctuating spaces.
In this period she met Getulio Alviani.
She first exhibited at a group show organised in the Centro d’Arte il Chiodo, Palermo, where she won first prize. After 1965 she was an integral part of the historical Optical-Kinetic Art movement.
She gravitated towards Gruppo N in Padua and Gruppo T in Milan, sharing both their ideas about their research aims and choices of materials.
She shared her ideas with Getulio Alviani, Dadamaino, and other exponents of Azimuth.
She was highly appreciative of GRAV, Gruppo Zero, and Nova Tendencija, so much so as to take part in “Nove Tendencija 3”, an international show organized in the same year at the Galerija Suvremene Umjetnosti, the Zagreb Museum of Contemporary Art.
She was one of the artists present in the important show “Aktuel ‘65” at the Galerie Aktuel, Bern, and together with Getulio Alviani and Paolo Scheggi, in the show “Oeuvres Plastiques et Appliquèes” at the Galerie Smith, Bruxelles.
In 1969 one of her works became part of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice.
After 1975 she made works based on the orthogonal relationship of parallel vertical and horizontal coloured lines on a black background.
In 1977 Herbert Distel commissioned her to made a miniature work for his Museum of Drawers, a collection of five hundred works realised by some well-known artists, including Picasso and others.
In 1981 she began to devote herself to weaving and exhibited her works at the Laboratorio Artivisivi, Foggia and then, in 1983, at the shows “Morbide & Trame”, the Foggia City Gallery of Contemporary Art, and “Testi Tessili” at the Il Monte Analogo bookshop, Rome.
In 2007 the Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, commissioned “Spazio ad Attivazione Cinetica”, 1967-1971/2007, a ten-metre rotating disc placed in the museum’s rotunda for its international “Op Art” exhibition; other exhibiters included the major exponents of Optical Art, among them Victor Vasarely, Bridget Riley, Francois Morellet, Julio Le Parc, Gianni Colombo, and Rafael Soto.
She has participated in the major international Optical Art events, including “Optic Nerve. Perceptual Art of the 1960s”, the Columbus Museum of Arts, and “Bit International [Nove] tendencije - Computer und visuelle Forschung, Zagreb 1961-1973”, at the Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz.

SELECTED RECENT EXHIBITIONS

2012
Ghosts in The Machine, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, US
Arte Programmata e Cinetica, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, IT

2013
Dynamo. Un siècle de lumière et de mouvement dans l’art 1913-2013, Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, FR
Percezione e Illusione, Arte Programmata e Cinetica, MACBA Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, AR
Percezione e Illusione, Arte Programmata e Cinetica, MACLA Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Latinoamericano, La Plata, AR

2014
Le Nuove Tendenze. Rivelazioni di un'arte percettiva e sensoriale, costruttiva e interattiva, Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milan, IT
Turn Me On, Christie's, London, UK
Global Exchange, Astrazione Geometrica dal 1950, MACRO Museo d’Arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome, IT
Occhio Mobile: Lenguajes del arte cinetico italiano anos 50-70, Corporacion Cultural Las Condes, Santiago of Chile, CL
Arte Cinetica, Museo di Santa Giulia, Brescia, IT
Kinetic Art, Yamanashi Prefectural Museum of Art, Kofu, JP
Arte Cinetica e Programmata in Italia 1958-1968, Sompo Japan Museum of Art, Tokyo, JP

Occhio Mobile: Lenguajes del arte cinetico italiano anos 50-70, MAC Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Lima, PE

2015
Marina Apollonio - Retrospective Exhibition, Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milan, IT
Occhio Mobile: Lenguajes del arte cinetico italiano anos 50-70, CAC Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Quito, EC
New Art For New Society, Wroclaw Contemporary Museum, Poland, PL

2016
Pokrenuto Oko, MUO Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb, HR
Abstract Loop Austria, 21er Haus, Vienna, AT
Eye Attack. Op Art and Kinetik Art 1950-1970, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, DK
The Illusive Eye, El Museo Del Barrio, New York, US
Olhar em Movimento, Istituto Tomie Othake, San Paolo, BR
Sculpture en Partage, Villa Datris Foundation for contemporary sculpture, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, FR
From the Collection. Image Reality and Research from 1960 until 1980, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT
Kunst in Europa 1945-1968, ZKM I Zentrum fur Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe, DE

2017
Eye Attack. Op Art en Kinetische Kunst, Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam, NL
Alberto Biasi, Sara Campesan, Bruno Munari e gli altri amici di Verifica 8+1, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice, IT

2018
BOOM: Art and Industry in 1960s Italy, Tornabuoni Art, London, UK
100% Italia. 1915-2015 Cent'anni di capolavori, Museo Ettore Fico, Turin, IT
Action <-> Reaction: 100 years of Kinetic art, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, NL
Open Works. 1955-1975, La Pedrera Foundation, Barcelona, ES

2019
Dal gesto alla forma. Arte europea e americana del dopoguerra nella Collezione Schulhof, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, IT
Luz y movimiento. La vanguardia cinética en París 1950-1975, MACA Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Alicante, ES
Vertigo. Op Art and a History of Deception 1520-1970, Mumok Museum Moderner Kunst Foundation Ludwig, Vienna, AT
Vértigo. Geometria e instabilidad, MACBA Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, AR
Passione. 12 progetti per l'arte italiana, MART Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto (Trento), IT
Le diable au corps. Quand l'Op Art électrise le cinéma, MAMAC Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice, FR
Optical Icons Black & White, Panarte Gallery, Vienna, AT
Diálogos entre sentidos. Un viaje de la abstración perceptual entre América y Europa, Museo del Canal Interoceánico, Panamá, PA
Dinámicas sobre papel, Marión Gallery, Panamá, PA
Peggy Guggenheim. L'ultima Doganessa, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, IT
Marina Apollonio, Espace Meyer-Zafra, Paris, FR
Vertigo. Op Art und eine Geschichte des Schwindels 1520-1970, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, DE

2020
Marina Apollonio. Dinamiche Virtuali | Viewing Room, Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milan, IT
Dynamic Visions, Tornabuoni Art, London, UK
Hypnose, Musée d'Arts de Nantes, Nantes, FR

2021
RESET, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH
In Real Life, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK
Sculpture en Fête, Villa Datris Foundation for contemporary sculpture, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, FR
Reflections. Dino Gavina, l'arte e il design, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, IT
Déplacements, Marina Apollonio, Ennio L. Chiggio, Edoardo Landi, Manfredo Massironi, Grazia Varisco, Espace Meyer-Zafra, Paris, FR
Not a Day without a Line. Works from the Marli Hoppe-Ritter Collection, Museum Ritter, Waldenbuch, DE

2022
Il Gard cinetico. Sono solo 4x20, Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice, IT
Cinétique! La sculpture en mouvement, Espace Monte-Cristo, Paris, FR
Sensorama. Lo sguardo, le cose, gli inganni, da Magritte alla realtà aumentata, MAN Museo d'Arte della Provincia di Nuoro, Nuoro, IT
LIX Biennale Internazionale d'Arte, Venice, IT
L'occhio in gioco. Percezione, impressioni e illusioni nell'arte, Palazzo Monte di Pietà, Padua, IT
At first sight - Neue Einblicke in die Sammlung der Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Recklinghausen, DE
Women of Influence, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK
Curva e retta. La linea nelle ricerche astratto-cinetiche italiane, Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milan, IT

2023
Mouvement et Lumière #2, Villa Datris Foundation for contemporary sculpture, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, FR
The Dynamic Eye, Beyond Optical and Kinetic Art, Exhibition from the Tate Modern's Collection, Atkinson Museum, Vila Nova de Gaia, PT
Marina Apollonio, Claudio D'Angelo, Lucia Di Luciano, Helga Philipp, Giovanni Pizzo, Galleria 10 A.M. ART - Vetrina BPM, Pietrasanta, IT
L'altra metà: La donna nell'arte, Casa Francotto, Busca, IT
Favoloso Calvino e il suo legame con le arti visive, Scuderie del Quirinale, Rome, IT
Light and Space Beyond Borders, IMAGO Art Gallery, Lugano, CH
Arte moderna e contemporanea. Antologia scelta 2024, Tornabuoni Art, Florence, IT

2024
The Dynamic Eye, Beyond Optical and Kinetic Art, Exhibition from the Tate Modern's Collection, Feshane ArtİstanbuI, Istanbul, TR
20x20 venti capolavori per venti artisti, Tornabuoni Art, Milan, IT
ITALIA 70 – I NUOVI MOSTRI, Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan, IT
The 100th Show, Espace Meyer-Zafra, Paris, FR
Avanguardie al Femminile. Accardi-Apollonio-Dadamaino, Tornabuoni Art, Florence, IT
Marina Apollonio. Oltre il cerchio, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, IT
Arteonics, The Mayor Gallery, London, UK
Electric Dreams, TATE Modern, London, UK

2025
We Will Go Right Up to the Sun. Female Pioneers of Geometric Abstraction, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, DE
Il Campo Espanso. Arte e agricoltura in Italia dagli anni Sessanta a oggi, Palazzo Collicola, Spoleto, IT
Luce - Spazio - Movimento, Tornabuoni Art, Milan, IT
X Incantamento. Marina Apollonio, Lucia Di Luciano, Helga Philipp, Esther Stocker, Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milan, IT
Marina Apollonio. UROBORO, Museo Giancarlo Vitali, San Nicolao Arte Contemporanea, Bellano, IT
Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milano, Frieze Masters, London, UK
Electric Dreams, OGR, Turin, IT
Affinities. Neue Begegnungen in der Sammlung der Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Recklinghausen, DE

2026
Bianco e Nero. Elogio del limite | *opere dalle collezioni veronesi*, GAM Galleria d'Arte Moderna Achille Forti, Verona, IT
Emozioni all'avanguardia. Gianfranco Bonomi e l'arte degli anni Sessanta e Settanta, MO.CA - Centro per le Nuove Culture, Brescia, IT

WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, IT
GAM Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin, IT
MART Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Rovereto (Trento), IT
Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome, IT
Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan, IT
Museo Umbro Apollonio, San Martino di Lupari, IT
MAMCO, Genève, CH
Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH
The Museum of Drawers, Zürich, CH
Das Progressive Museum, Basel, CH
Musée Cantonal Des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, CH
Mumok Museum Moderner Kunst Foundation Ludwig, Vienna, AT
Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT
Villa Datris Foundation for contemporary sculpture, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, FR
VAF-Stiftung, Frankfurt, DE
Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, DE
Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart, DE
Museum Ritter, Waldenbuch, DE
Arithmeum, Bonn, DE
Kunsthalle Recklinghausen Musee Nationale Poznan, Lodz, PL
MACBA Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, AR
Museo de Arte Moderno, Ciudad Bolivar, VE
The Leir Foundation - Leir Retreat Center Inc., Ridgefield, Connecticut, US
Collezione Hermès, New York, US
New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, US
Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR
TATE Modern, London, UK