

## MASI Lugano

Museo d'arte  
della Svizzera italiana,  
Lugano

Via Canova 10  
CH – 6901 Lugano

info@masilugano.ch  
+41 (0)91 815 7973  
www.masilugano.ch

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## **Marta Margnetti** ***and suddenly shaken by a force*** **Manor Award Ticino 2020**

28 November 2020 – 14 February 2021  
Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana, Lugano  
MASI | Palazzo Reali

Curated by Francesca Benini

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### PRESS RELEASE

Lugano, 16 November 2020

From 28 November 2020 to 14 February 2021, the Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana (MASI Lugano) will present an exhibition exclusively designed for its Palazzo Reali venue by artist **Marta Margnetti**, winner of the Manor Award Ticino 2020. The site-specific exhibition will be housed in five rooms, in which the artist will engage with the theme of living and domestic environments through her installations.

Born in Mendrisio, Marta Margnetti is the winner of the 2020 Manor Award, one of the most prestigious awards of the Swiss contemporary art scene. The artist, who lives and works in Lugano, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Visual Arts from the Haute École d'Arts et de Design in Geneva and a Master's Degree in Contemporary Arts Practice from the Hochschule der Künste in Berne. She was co-founder and co-director of the Sonnenstube art space in Lugano between 2013 and 2018, and has been an active member of the Spazio Morel Lugano collective since 2018. In 2017, she received the Kiefer Hablitzel Award for her work, which has been shown in numerous group shows, including *Beehave*, Kunsthhaus Baselland, Basel (2018); *CARAVAN*, Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau (2018); *New Swiss Performance Now*, Kunsthalle, Basel (2018); and *< 30. XIII Giovane arte svizzera*, Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana, Lugano (2017).

Devised in close partnership with the artist at MASI's Palazzo Reali venue, the exhibition features five installations through which Margnetti prompts visitors to reflect on their relationship with their homes and respective living environments. The works (in concrete, iron, pottery, wax, wood and cardboard) are displayed alongside prints, bronze casts and readymades, reflecting the artist's aptitude for working with a wide variety of materials while adopting the concept of DIY. This approach allows her to propel her thought beyond the brink of the imaginable, making way for the unexpected and the energy derived from it: a criterion in keeping with the title of the exhibition "*and suddenly shaken by a force*", a quote from Kandinsky that refers to the relationship with the utopian space.

The exhibition spaces become elements of a domestic environment through which the artist creates a narrative especially designed for the multi-room venue at Palazzo Reali, which does not afford an overall picture, but allows visitors to immerse themselves in fragments of the atmospheres and places that she has imagined. Following the initial impact of the environment, the attentive visitor can also notice less visible details: The space comes to life, animated by little sculptures that give it new meaning while simultaneously adorning it. Words and signs, engraved in or drawn upon the surfaces of the materials, reveal fascinating notes left by the artist on most of the works in the exhibition.

Margnetti transposes her thoughts and experiences in the installations presented at MASI, creating a timeless idea of living while at the same time evoking reflection on modern living.

## **The artist's book**

A catalogue created in close partnership with the artist will be published to coincide with the exhibition. The central part of the book features pages covered with drawings and notes, along with photographs by Yimei Zhang documenting the process of creation of Margnetti's works. This section, which resembles a notebook, is followed by a chapter containing photographs of the installations on display taken by Roberto Pellegrini. The bilingual catalogue (Italian and English) includes an introduction and the transcription of a conversation that took place between Marta Margnetti and curators Giada Olivotto and Francesca Benini.

## **Manor Award Ticino 2020**

Established by Philippe Nordmann in 1982, the Manor Award is one of the most prestigious and coveted awards of the Swiss contemporary art scene and one of its most effective means of promotion. Active in 12 Swiss cities and regions, the award is aimed at artists under 40 active in the various fields of the visual arts. Assigned every two years, the award aims to introduce the public to the work of relatively unknown young artists, boosting their artistic career. In addition to a grant of 15,000 Swiss francs and the purchase of an artwork, the winner of the Manor Award also receives a solo exhibition accompanied by the publication of a catalogue.

The Premio Manor Ticino, active in the region since 2005, is among the many ventures supported by MASI to encourage and promote the local art scene. In the past, the award has been assigned to the following artists: Andrea Crociani (2005), Davide Cascio (2007), Matteo Terzaghi and Marco Zürcher (2009), Pascal Schwaighofer (2012), Samoa Rémy (2014), Marco Scorti (2016) and Vera Trachsel (2018). On a national level, the winners include Pipilotti Rist (1994), Luciano Castelli (1984), Silvia Bächli (1990) and Carmen Perrin (1998).

## **MASI Lugano**

Founded in 2015, after just a few years the Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana (MASI Lugano) has become one of the most visited art museums in Switzerland. It forms a cultural bridge between the north and south of the Alps, between Latin and Germanic Europe. Through its two locations – the LAC cultural centre and the historic Palazzo Reali – it offers a rich programme with temporary exhibitions and changing collection presentations as well as a comprehensive, multilingual educational programme for visitors of all ages. The offer is complemented by the close collaboration with the

Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati, which is part of the MASI network, entirely dedicated to contemporary art. MASI is one of the Swiss museums to be directly supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Culture and is also one of the "Art Museums of Switzerland", the group of museums selected by Switzerland Tourism to promote the country's cultural image worldwide.

## Current Exhibitions

### La Collezione

MASI | Palazzo Reali (permanent collection)

### Vincenzo Vicari Photographer

Ticino in the tide of change

Until 10 January 2021

MASI | Palazzo Reali

### PAM Paolo Mazzuchelli

Tra le ciglia

Until 28 March 2021

MASI | LAC

### Hans Josephsohn

Until 21 February 2021

MASI | LAC

### What's New?

Until 13 December 2020

Collezione Giancarlo e Danna Olgiati

### Braschler/Fischer

Divided We Stand

Until 22 November 2020

MASI | LAC

## Upcoming Exhibitions

### Beni Bischof

Intensity Intensifies

05 December 2020 – 10 January 2021

MASI | LAC

that's the only way i can come

By nora turato

05 December 2020 – 24 January 2021

MASI | LAC

## **Press Contacts**

### **MASI – Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana**

Head of Communication  
Stefan Hottinger-Behmer  
+41 (0)91 815 7962  
[comunicazione@masilugano.ch](mailto:comunicazione@masilugano.ch)

### For Switzerland

NEUTRAL  
Wasserwerkstrasse 129  
8037 Zürich  
[yes@neutral.plus](mailto:yes@neutral.plus)

### For Italy

ddl+battage  
Alessandra de Antonellis  
+39 339 3637388  
[alessandra.deantonellis@ddlstudio.net](mailto:alessandra.deantonellis@ddlstudio.net)

Margherita Baleni  
+39 347 4452374  
[margherita.baleni@battage.net](mailto:margherita.baleni@battage.net)

## **Exhibition Venues**

**MASI | LAC**  
Piazza Bernardino Luini 6  
CH – 6900 Lugano

**MASI | Palazzo Reali**  
Via Canova 10  
CH – 6900 Lugano

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## Main Partner



## With the support of



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## Institutional Partners



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**Ufficio federale della cultura UFC**



MY OWN  
**LUGANO  
REGION**

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## Press Images

01.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Ceramic, wax, iron, dried flowers, concrete, ink, tempera and graphite

© Yimei Zhang



02.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Ceramic, wax, iron, dried flowers, concrete, ink, tempera and mirror-effect-foil

© Yimei Zhang



03.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Iron and mirror-effect-foil

© Yimei Zhang



04.

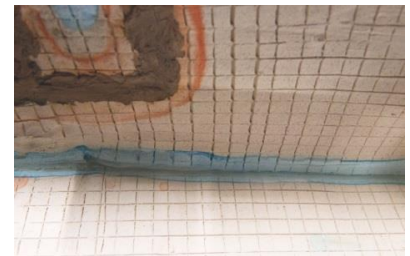
**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Ceramic, concrete, ink and tempera

© Yimei Zhang



05.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Ceramic, MDF, concrete, cardboard, paper, tempera, graphite and ink

© Yimei Zhang



06.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Ceramic and tempera

© Yimei Zhang



07.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Shards of glass, copper wire, bronze and lightbulb

© Yimei Zhang



08.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Clay

© Yimei Zhang



09.

**Marta Margnetti**

Studio Photo

2020

Etching on iron plates

© Yimei Zhang

