

PRESS RELEASE

**Lucio Fontana's monumental plaster ceiling *Ambiente Spaziale con tagli* (1960)
at Art Basel Unlimited, stand no. U49**

13 – 16 June 2019, Preview days 10 – 12 June

Partners: Ben Brown Fine Arts + Dickinson + Amedeo Porro Fine Arts SA, in collaboration with Galleria Tega and Magazzino

In collaboration with our partners we are delighted to present for sale Lucio Fontana's *Ambiente Spaziale con tagli*, the largest of the artist's ceiling installations, at this year's Art Basel Unlimited. This marks the first opportunity to see the work, which was inspired by diverse sources including Michelangelo's architectural designs, installed as a ceiling in an architectural setting as it was originally conceived by Fontana.

Ambiente Spaziale con tagli was commissioned from Fontana by the Milan-based property developer Antonio Melandri, as part of a renovation project overseen by the architect and interior designer Osvaldo Borsani. It was not Fontana's first instance of collaboration with Borsani: throughout the 1950s, he regularly provided 'spatial' ceilings and decorated entire walls for his friend, in an exclusive collaborative relationship. In letters to Borsani Fontana expressed his desire to create something 'halfway between architecture and painting'.

The exhibition of this monumental Fontana ceiling coincides with a major retrospective, *Lucio Fontana: Beyond the Threshold*, opening at Guggenheim Bilbao on 17th May, after its successful first leg at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Just as the iconic slashes and perforations in Fontana's canvases opened up the picture plane, this large-scale installation expands notions of, and breaks barriers between, sculpture, painting and the urban environment.

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