

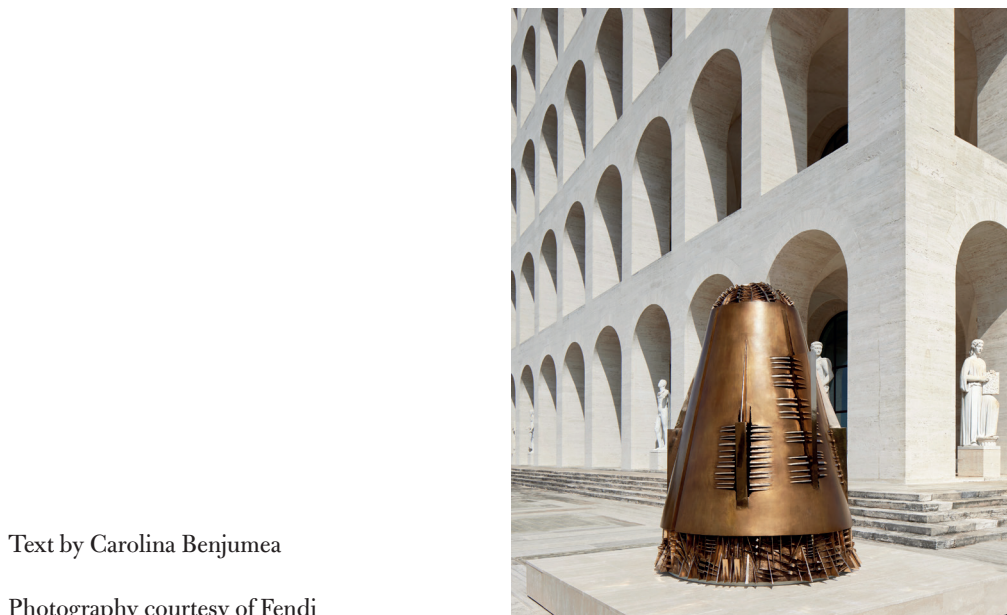
LOOK AT ME

CAP 74024

*feels like summer*

**JARED LETO**  
by Dudi Hasson  
wearing **GUCCI**





Text by Carolina Benjumea

Photography courtesy of Fendi

## - THE STORY OF - ARNALDO POMODORO'S NEW EXHIBIT

Fendi and Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro have announced the inauguration of the exhibition “Arnaldo Pomodoro: Il Grande Teatro delle Civiltà”, as a result of a multi-year partnership between the two entities.

Taking place from May 12th to October 1st, 2023, and curated by Lorenzo Respi and Andrea Viliani, the exhibit will delve into the work of Arnaldo Pomodoro, one of the most significant contemporary artists of the Italian post-war era. Around thirty works created by the artist between the '50s and 2021 will be exhibited, encompassing over seventy years of experimentation, and showcasing an autobiographical theater. This immersive experience merges the realms of the reality, the imagination, the history, and the mind, providing observers with an interactive and theatrical encounter, inviting them to engage with the sculptures, and creating an opportunity for personal involvement and exploration.

The exhibition is being held at the Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana in Rome, a city that holds deep significance in Pomodoro's artistic journey and evolution.

«Rome has profoundly influenced my artistic path», he claims, as it was the first city to host a major exhibition of his work in 1955 at the Galleria dell'Obelisco.

The Eternal City is also home to two of the most significant works of Pomodoro's artistic exploration: “The Big Sphere” located in front of the Farnesina, and the “Sphere Within Sphere” situated in the Cortile della Pigna of the Vatican Museums. Reflecting on the capital, Pomodoro declares: «Rome has always evoked in me an ambivalent feeling of attraction and dismay: I am simultaneously overwhelmed by its beauty and captivated by the evocative power of its history, which accentuates the perception of the inexorable passage of time».

Renowned for his exploration of geometric forms and his utilization of distinctive shapes and materials, Pomodoro's creations have garnered numerous awards.

He received the Sculpture Prizes at the Biennials of São Paulo (1963) and Venice



Arnaldo Pomodoro, Portrait with Peekaboo  
by Dario and Carlos Tettamanzi





(1964), highlighting the recognition of his work on an international scale. In 1990, he was honored with the Imperial Premium for Sculpture by the Japan Art Association, further solidifying his artistic contributions. Additionally, in 2008, Pomodoro received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award from San Francisco’s International Sculpture Center, further affirming his significant impact in the field.

By delving into the interconnection between the visual and scenic arts within Pomodoro’s body of work, the exhibit aims at highlighting the relationship between the planning component of the work and its creation, providing visitors with insights into the artist’s thought process and the evolution of ideas that ultimately shape his creations.

Developed as an immersive experience, visitors will embark on a journey that unravels a captivating storyline woven through the shapes and materials. These elements serve as conduits, transmitting memories of the past and visions of the future.

The exhibition seamlessly integrates indoor and outdoor spaces, inviting individuals to appreciate Pomodoro’s designs, ranging from intricate high reliefs and three-dimensional works to monumental sculptures. Additionally, the display will showcase his unique interest in environmental art, exemplified by notable works such as “Moto terreno Solare,” a long concrete wall created for “Il Simposio di Minoa” in Marsala, and “The Sala d’Armi” at the Poldi Pezzoli Museum in Milan, among others.

Visitors will have the opportunity to witness some of his most memorable creations and will be invited to immerse themselves in the captivating world of form and texture crafted by the artist. Throughout the exhibition, the carefully curated works, selected by the duo, will serve as conduits, enabling viewers to grasp the artistic prowess and visionary essence of Pomodoro. Pomodoro’s inspiration drawn from ancient

civilizations and mythological narratives will be prominently featured in the exhibition, showcasing some of his masterpieces such as “Costume di Didone” and “Costume di Creonte”. Additionally, the exhibit will include “Forme del Mito”, created in 1983, which comprises four bronze sculptures: “Il potere” (Agamennone), “L’ambizione” (Clitennestra), “La Machina” (Egisto), and “La profezia” (Cassandra).

The mastery of geometrical forms, texture, and surface treatment by Pomodoro can be truly appreciated in several notable works. One such example is “Le Battaglie”, created in 1995. Another remarkable piece is “Movimento in piena aria e nel profondo”, conceived around 1996-1997, which showcases his adeptness in capturing movement and depth. Furthermore, “Il cubo”, crafted between 1961 and 1962, exemplifies his exploration of geometric shapes. Pomodoro’s interpretations of the human experience and collective memory are powerfully portrayed in “Grande Tavola della memoria” conceived from 1959 to 1965. Adding conceptual circularity to the exhibition is the sculpture “Continuum” dating back to 2010. With its intricate design, textured surface, and symbolic significance,

«I had great fun involving myself with the Peekaboo, one of the most iconic Fendi bags. I wanted to place the function of the use of the object-bag in discussion and transform it into something mysterious and visionary.»

it becomes a compelling artwork that enhances the overall experience. Another notable piece is “Rotativa di Babilonia”, created in 1991, which alludes to a cyclical and continuous movement. Its dynamic composition and historical references enrich the exhibition. The sculpture “Tracce”, conceived in 1998, imparts a profound sense of depth and complexity to the collection. It adds an intriguing dimension to the exhibition, capturing the viewer’s attention with its intricate details. On the other hand, “Osso di sepia” (2011-2021), shaped like a cuttlebone, stands as a monumental sculpture. With its deep grooves, engravings, and punctures, it creates a visually striking presence.

All of these sculptures converge to form a captivating visual rhythm and harmony, beckoning viewers to challenge conventional interpretations of time, space, history, and myth, by intertwining elements from archaic, antique, modern, and fantastical civilizations. The exhibit also features never before seen archival materials, such as photographs, documents, sketches, and drawings evoking the spirit and ambiance of the artist’s studio. Immersing the visitor into Pomodoro’s work beyond the final product allows them to see the whole spectrum of the creative process. Alongside the sculptures, and as a result of the partnership, the artist has reimaged a Peekaboo bag. Originally created by Silvia Venturini Fendi in 2008, the bag has become an emblem of timeless elegance and evolving creativity. Its design merges traditional craftsmanship with innovative elements at its very core. With its feminine and stylish appeal, the Peekaboo bag has withstood the test of time, attaining iconic status as a symbol of independence, ambition, and strength of character.

Pomodoro has transformed the iconic Peekaboo into a wearable piece of art. The addition of geometric cone spikes adorning the sides of the bag creates a daring and strong aesthetic, while the softness and elegance of the gold rose color provide a contrasting touch. Conceived as a medieval shield, a mythological animal, or an exotic flower, the bag blends skillfully Pomodoro’s artistic vision with Fendi’s ongoing creativity. «I had great fun involving myself with the Peekaboo, one of the most iconic Fendi bags. I wanted to place the function of the use of the object-bag in discussion and transform it into



something mysterious and visionary», the artist claimed. The creation will also be displayed during the exhibition. Arnaldo joins a long list of artists and friends of the House that have given a new take on the bag with the Canvas Peekaboo Project launched in 2014. The list includes British singer Adele; late architect Zaha Hadid; model and actress Cara Delevingne; fashion director Anna Dello Russo; model Liu Wen; Olympic diver Guo Jingjing; actress Angelababy; presenter Yang Lan; artist Liang Yuanwei; Oscar-winning art director Tim Yip. Each of them has brought their distinct artistic vision to the project, resulting in one-of-a-kind designs that showcase their personal reinterpretations of the bag’s allure.

The partnership between Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro and Fendi represents a longstanding relationship between the two organizations, which started in 2013 when Fendi established its headquarters in the Foundation’s former exhibition venue. Since then, this alliance has flourished, encompassing a shared commitment to celebrating art and fostering a broader understanding of artistic languages, having sustainability and innovation at the core. Carlotta Montebello, General Manager of Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, expressed: «The Foundation is enthusiastically projecting itself towards the future to give concrete shape to its missions and vision, drawing strength from the guidance of Arnaldo Pomodoro, who founded it 28 years ago».