



ALLAN MCCOLLUM

(Los Angeles, 1944)

MINIME VARIAZIONI

Drawings and Plaster Surrogates

18 January – 29 March, 2024

GALLERIA FUMAGALLI

Via Bonaventura Cavalieri 6, Milano

From 18 January to 29 March, Galleria Fumagalli presents *MINIME VARIAZIONI. Drawings and Plaster Surrogates*, its first solo exhibition of American master **Allan McCollum** (Los Angeles, 1944), who returns to Italy after fifteen years presenting a site-specific project.

Allan McCollum, one of the most original and influential American Conceptual artists, will be in Milan for a museum-like exhibition: **a project specifically conceived for the main room of the gallery, consisting of 660 elements created between 1988 and 1992, which will form a single large installation: *Collection of Drawings*.**

The work reflects the artist's fifty-year research which takes the form of "collections" of works – drawings or sculptures, from a few elements to several thousand – apparently mass-produced, yet characterized by subtle and minimal variations in shape and color that distinguish the single from the "mass".

Through the reproduction of similar forms and their display in never-the-same installations, Allan McCollum reflects on the paradox of human existence whereby each individual aspires to be part of a group, but at the same time wants to feel unique.

In 2008 on the occasion of his participation in the São Paulo Biennial, Allan McCollum stated: *«It's a simple idea, creating a system for producing a unique emblematic "shape" for each person on the planet. Of course, it is complicated, and impractical. But since we often think about art as "impossible dreaming", I figured it was okay to try».*

Since the 1970s, **Allan McCollum** has been questioning the dichotomy between hand-made production of unique works and mass production, and between the artistic research of the individual and the viewers traditionally seen as a nameless crowd. He proposes to subvert those criteria and create new identifications for viewers as opposed to traditional art valuations of producer and receiver – usually assessed by education and class. Due to its focus on the processes of cultural reception, McCollum's work has often been set in the context of his contemporaries Michael Asher, Daniel Buren, Andrea Fraser, Louise Lawler, and Allan Ruppersberg.

Allan McCollum lives and works in New York where he moved in 1975 from his hometown, Los Angeles. Emblematic of his continuing activity are these bodies of work: *Surrogate Paintings* begun in 1978, *Plaster Surrogates* emerged in 1982 and *Drawings* from 1988.

He took part in the Whitney Biennial of 1975 and the Venice Biennials of 1988 and 2012. His works are part of the collections of over seventy among the most prestigious museums worldwide, including the Centre

Pompidou in Paris; the MoMA, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; the MAMCO in Geneva; the Rivoli Castle in Turin.

Allan McCollum will personally follow the installation of the exhibition, which will last two weeks, and will be present at the public opening on 18 January, 2024.

GALLERIA FUMAGALLI

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Opening hours

Monday to Friday, 1-7 pm

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