

Via San Maurilio, 14 – Milan

**PIETRO COLETTA. REVEALING THE INVISIBLE**

*curated by Luigi Sansone*

February 13 – March 27, 2025

**Opening Thursday, February 13, at 6 PM**

Artist in attendance

*Press release, January 24, 2025*

**From February 13 to March 27, 2025**, with a body of works that immerses the viewer in the artist's profound poetic vision, the **Paula Seegy Gallery** presents "Pietro Coletta. Revealing the Invisible", curated by **Luigi Sansone**.

The exhibition showcases primarily **sculptural works**, created using **mixed media** from the 1990s to the present. These pieces are characterized by their **simplicity** and **minimalist composition**, highlighting Pietro Coletta’s constant pursuit of investigating transcendental spaces and atmospheres, nature, and the origins and fate of humanity.

A central theme in Coletta’s art is his evident interest in the spiritual world, shaped by his extensive travels in Africa and India. This interest is paired with a profound knowledge of Western modernist art. Among the many influences evident in his work are Umberto Boccioni and Kazimir Malevich.

Curator Luigi Sansone states: *“In his studio, isolating himself from reality, in an inner silence, Coletta creates works full of hidden meanings, linking his artistic passion indissolubly with his spiritual research. Coletta is in perfect harmony with the thought expressed by Kandinsky, who claimed that art should express the inner spirituality of the artist through abstract forms and colors.”*

The artist chooses **poor materials** such as copper, brass, iron, wood, and stone for the creation of his sculptures, whether they are freestanding or wall-mounted. As for color, it is introduced through patinas, brushstrokes of copper and liquid silver, burn marks, white lead, pigments, and various types of metal wires. In his own words, he describes his expressive need as follows: *"Sculpture is the medium I use to express the deepest and most mysterious part of my being, where insights tear apart the veil that separates me from the Totality. In my sculpture, I seek the Soul of the material. Every form of life possesses a Soul; in every form of life, multiple energies are present. Only if I consider the material before me as alive can I make contact with the Soul hidden within it, merge with it, and make the work come to life."*

A distinctive feature of the wall-mounted works is the **irregular geometric shapes** that take over the surrounding space and combine with "light," another essential element of his poetic expression.

This pairing is strongly present in Pietro Coletta's recent works, such as *Occult Vibrations*, *Vibrations of the Unconscious*, and *Interpenetration* (2024). These sculptures stand out for their use of assembled boards in polygonal shapes that create dynamic and innovative compositions. The use of oxy-acetylene torch adds visual depth, while intertwined metal wires generate light and movement effects, evoking a sense of continuous transformation.

Light, a central element, takes on a symbolic value, representing revelation and the contrast between the physical and the spiritual, influenced by medieval theories on its creative essence. Other works, such as *Ancestral Apparition* (2020), explore themes of **memory and spirituality** through materials and symbols that evoke distant cultures and rituals, transporting the viewer into sacred dimensions. In these works, the dialogue between light and shadow emphasizes mystery and invites the viewer to look beyond appearances to reach a transcendent realm.

In the entire rich body of work by Coletta, of which the exhibition at the Paula Seegy Gallery offers an in-depth overview, **light** prevails over matter, giving the works a mystical and profound aura, an essence that transcends physicality.

**BIO**
Pietro Coletta was born in Bari on December 2, 1948. In 1967, he moved to Milan and enrolled at the Brera Academy, where he attended sculpture courses by Marino Marini, Alik Cavaliere, and Lorenzo Pepe. In 1969, he took a studio in Corso Garibaldi, where he still works and lives. He has since participated in important national and international exhibitions: from the San Fedele Award in Milan to the 15th Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto; from the 1975 Quadriennale of Rome to "Pittura Ambiente" at the Royal Palace of Milan in 1979, the Lenbachhaus in Munich, and the Hayward Gallery in London for Arte Italiana 1960-82, the Power Gallery in Sydney, and the University Art Museum in Brisbane, to the Venice Biennale, Italian Pavilion. In 1984, he took part in “Costruire l'illusione” at the ELAC of Contemporary Art of the City of Lyon. In 1987, the Pavilion of Contemporary Art in Milan hosted a solo exhibition of his work. In 1990, he exhibited at the Toyama Biennale in Japan; followed by exhibitions in South America at the Sofia Imber Museum in Caracas, the Bogotá Museum, and in Buenos Aires. In 1995, he exhibited again in Italy and inaugurated a permanent installation at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tortolì. In 2004, he participated in “Scultura italiana 1960-2004” at the “La Palomba” Sculpture Park in Matera and at the Mudima Foundation in Milan. In 2005, he took part in the exhibition “La scultura italiana del XX secolo” at the Arnaldo Pomodoro Foundation in Milan. Notable exhibitions in 2006 include “Mitos — Miti e archetipi nel mare della conoscenza” at the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens, as well as in Tirana, Monte Carlo, and Cyprus. In 2007, he participated in “Spirit into Shape. Contemporary Italian Sculpture” at the Italian Embassy in Washington. In 2009, he created the permanent installation “Essenza del volo, volo dell’essenza” at UCLA (University of Los Angeles). In 2013, some of his sculptures were requested for the “International Sculpture” exhibition at the Hangaram Museum in Seoul; he also held a major solo exhibition at the Mudima Foundation in Milan, showcasing large-scale installations. From 2010 to 2015, he taught sculpture at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan, and since 2016, he has been a member of the Accademia Nazionale di San Luca in Rome. Some of his works have also been exhibited in institutional venues, including the courtyard of the Conservatory, the Sormani Library, and Palazzo della Permanente in Milan. From 2017 to 2025, he has been present in solo and group exhibitions at various galleries and fairs across Italy.

**Exhibition details**

Title: Pietro Coletta. Revealing the Invisible

Curator: Luigi Sansone

Venue: Paula Seegy Gallery, Via San Maurilio 14 - Milan

Dates: February 13 – March 27, 2025

Opening: Thursday, February 13, 6:00 PM

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Free entrance

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