

What?

A homage to Alessandro Mendini by Philippe Starck

April 16 – June 16, 2024

As part of their cultural partnership, Triennale Milano and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain are presenting a dual homage to **Alessandro Mendini**, the architect, designer, artist and theorist who left his mark on the revolutions in thought and behavior of the 20th century and the new millennium.

In addition to the retrospective exhibition, *Io sono un drago. The true story of Alessandro Mendini* (April 13 – October 13, 2024) – realized in collaboration with the **Archivio Alessandro Mendini**, curated by **Fulvio Irace**, with exhibition design by **Pierre Charpin** – Triennale Milano will host in the Impluvium space, from **April 16 to June 16, 2024**, an installation imagined by **Philippe Starck**.

The retrospective and the installation – two new projects designed specifically for the spaces of the Palazzo dell'Arte – sprang from the close bond that existed between Mendini and both Triennale and the Fondation Cartier. Among the projects that he designed for Triennale were the installation *Architettura sussurrante (Whispering Architecture)* (1979) as part of the 16th International Exhibition, the exhibition *Quali Cose Siamo (What Things we are)* (2010), and the *Teatro dei Burattini (Puppet Theater)* (2015), designed with his brother Francesco and situated in the Triennale garden. In 2002, the Fondation Cartier dedicated an exhibition to Alessandro Mendini, *Fragilisme*, that prompted the elaboration of a founding concept of his theoretical thinking. Ten years later he was invited to design the staging of the exhibition *Histoires de voir*, to imagine site-specific works, and to participate to the exhibitions that the Fondation Cartier presented internationally. Numerous works by Mendini are part of the collections of both institutions.

The installation by Philippe Starck

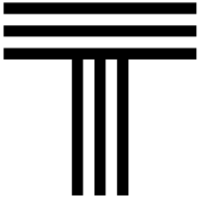
From April 16 to June 16, 2024, the Impluvium of Triennale Milano will be the site of **What?**, a site-specific installation imagined by **Philippe Starck**, commissioned and presented by Triennale Milano and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain. Starck is one of the most brilliant creators of our time, who shared creative and professional experiences with Alessandro Mendini.

What? is an immersive installation that will take visitors into Mendini's subconscious and his creative universe through the visionary eyes of Philippe Starck. An impressionistic journey, guided by sounds and images in constant transformation.

"I owe a debt to Triennale and a debt to Alessandro Mendini." – explains Philippe Starck – "As a young man in Milan, Triennale was a great revelation for me. I was absolutely fascinated by the building, which lit up my head. I liked Alessandro personally. Before being a human, he was an idea, a sensation, an osmotic vibration that I wanted to recapture through the installation, conceived as an immersive experience in Alessandro Mendini's brain."

The French creator has invited **Soundwalk Collective** in his project, a collective of artists and musicians founded by Stephan Crasneanski and internationally acclaimed for their concept albums, sound installations and live performances, often in collaboration with artists, musicians and writers, including, recently, Jean-Luc Godard, Nan Goldin and Patti Smith.

Triennale and Fondation Cartier have collaborated with Philippe Starck on several occasions, and some of his works are part of Triennale's permanent collection and have been featured in



many exhibitions. Starck has also collaborated with the Fondation Cartier since the beginning of the institution's life, participating to one of its first exhibitions, *Vivre en couleur* (1985).

Alessandro Mendini

Alessandro Mendini (1931-2019), architect, designer, artist and critic, was born in Milan. He was one of the theorists and instigators behind the renewal of Italian design. His interests lay in writing and theorizing as well as designing, and he edited the magazines *Casabella* (1970-1976), *Modo* (1977-1981) and *Domus* (1980-1985; 2010-2011). Monographs have been published in several languages on his work and on the projects he worked on with Alchimia. He created a fairytale world of objects, furniture, environments, paintings and architecture. He collaborated with international companies and was a consultant for various industries, including in Asia. He was an honorary member of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, and received three Compasso d'Oro awards for design (1979, 1981, 2014); he was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in France, and was awarded an honorary title by the Architectural League of New York, as well as the European Prize for Architecture 2014 in Chicago. He received four honorary degrees from Milan, Paris, Wrocław in Poland and Seoul in South Korea. Works by Mendini can be found in many museums and private collections. His body of work seems to have two souls: one that is solitary and introverted and the other devoted to group activities. Many of his works were created alone, in fact, but many also with groups that he set up. He founded the Mendini Workshop in 1989 together with his brother, architect Francesco Mendini, with whom he designed the Museum of Groningen in Holland, the Art Stations of the Naples Metro in Italy and various public and private buildings in Europe and Asia.

Philippe Starck

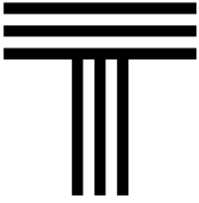
Philippe Starck, world famous creator with multifaceted inventiveness, is always focused on the essential. His vision is that creation, whatever form it takes, must improve the lives of as many people as possible. This philosophy has made him one of the pioneers and central figures of the concept of "democratic design".

By employing his prolific work across all domains, from everyday products (furniture, a citrus squeezer, electric bikes, an individual wind turbine), to architecture (hotels, restaurants that aspire to be stimulating places) and naval and spatial engineering (yachts, habitation module for private space tourism), he continually pushes the boundaries and requirements of design, becoming one of the most visionary and renowned creators of the international contemporary scene.

Soundwalk Collective

Soundwalk Collective is the contemporary sonic arts platform of founder and artist Stephan Crasneanski and producer Simone Merli. Working with a rotating constellation of artists and musicians, they develop site- and context-specific sound projects through which to examine conceptual, literary or artistic themes.

Evolving along multi-disciplinary lines, Soundwalk Collective has cultivated long-term creative collaborations with musician Patti Smith, late director Jean-Luc Goddard, photographer Nan Goldin, choreographer Sasha Waltz, and actress and singer Charlotte Gainsbourg, among others. In doing so, their practice engages in the narrative potential of sound across mediums such as art installations, dance, music and film. A unique artistic approach to sound ties together the different forms in which Soundwalk Collective work. Whether in original composition or the use of archival recordings, they treat sound as material that is both tactile and poetic. This allows them to create layered narratives that address ideas of memory, time, love and loss.



Triennale Milano

Fondation *Cartier*
pour l'art contemporain

Information

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Produced by: Triennale Milano and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain

Art Direction: Philippe Starck

April 16 – June 16, 2024

Tickets

Retrospective + installation: 15 Euros (full) / 12 Euros (reduced) / 7.5 Euros (students)

Daily ticket for all Triennale exhibitions: 25 Euros

Advance tickets: www.triennale.org

Information for advance tickets: Triennale ticket office,

biglietteria@triennale.org or T. +39 02 72434 208

Triennale Milano opening times

Tuesday – Sunday, 11 am – 8 pm

(last entrance 7 pm)

Design Week

April 16 – 21, 2024

Tuesday – Sunday, 11 am – 9 pm

(last entrance 8 pm)

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