

GIORGIO MORANDI – LEE UFAN

**The Armory Show 2017
Pier 94 – booth 519**



For its booth 519 on Pier 94 at **The Armory Show**, **Galleria d'Arte Maggiore G.A.M.** is delighted to offer a great show of **Giorgio Morandi** and **Lee Ufan**, one of the most important proponents of the avant-garde Mono-ha (Object School) group, famous for his minimalist paintings.

Coming from different countries and belonging to different generations, Morandi and Ufan share surprising affinities in their views of painting and in the fundamentals of their conceptions of art. It is not a secret that **Giorgio Morandi's** works can be read as arrangements of pure and near-abstract forms because of the artist's focus on color, tones and shape relationships, going beyond a mere figurative representation of what you see. He proved an exclusive ability to distill the essence of a complex scene or composition with an incredible, and increasing, economy of means, such as a limited color palette, and creating a lyrical atmosphere of suspension of time and space. It is this intensity of contemplation and observation that gives a freshness and individuality to each of Morandi's paintings, even in his subtle variations between one arrangement and another. Painting was a ritual experience for Morandi: each of his pictures has a certain quality of light that suggests it was painted at a particular time of day or under specific lighting conditions. The Gallery will exhibit a strong selection of oils on canvas, watercolor, drawings and some etchings, from still lifes to landscapes, from the Twenties till the last part of his production.

Lee Ufan is a painter, sculptor, writer and philosopher. The Gallery is going to present his iconic works where a brush stroke leaves its poetic mark on the white surface of the canvas, fading as it ends. It's immediately clear how the relationship between painted / unpainted and occupied / empty space lies at the heart of Lee Ufan's practice, as well as it is evident in Morandi above all in his works on paper. Restricting his palette to a single color on a white ground, Ufan creates contemplative works in iterative series. 'It seems very simple, but I start work on it at nine o'clock in the morning and carry on until three or four in the afternoon. And not only for one day; I repeat the same process for three, four, five times. If even then it doesn't please me I start it again.' Even in Ufan, painting is a ritual practice. The Gallery will select the works in order to create the most intimate dialogue, allowing the public to appreciate the great value of both of the artists and to recognize the philosophy they share.

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