## Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro announces the reopening

# Of Arnaldo Pomodoro's Labyrinth.

# From March 20, a unique experience among art, history and myth in Milan's underground passages

**Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro** is pleased to announce the reopening to the public of the Labyrinth, one of the artist's most evocative works, which will be open to the public again starting March 20 with renewed access and open to all by reservation. Located in the basement of the recently renovated **Milan Headquarters of Maison FENDI**, the work invites visitors to live an extraordinary and immersive experience in the meanderings of a sculpture that transcends the traditional concept of artistic space.

"My entry into the labyrinth is an invitation into the meanders of a path, where time is transformed into space and space in turn becomes time," says **Arnaldo Pomodoro** himself, describing the profound connection between his artistic work and the sensory experience of visitors.

The vast work is not just a maze: it is a unique place that subverts the traditional idea of a labyrinth, devoid of verdant visions and shrouded in the darkness of the dungeon. The work, inspired by the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the first great epic poem in human history (c. 2000 BCE), takes visitors on a journey between myth and memory, discovering the roots of human experience.

The carved surfaces of the Labyrinth evoke ancient civilizations, with archaic signs, wedges and piercings that evoke a lost and forgotten language, yet convey a sense of mysterious familiarity. "*I have always been fascinated by signs, especially archaic signs,*" Pomodoro explained to critic Sandro Parmiggiani, "*the imprints that I dig into the artistic material, the wedges, the threads and the tears, come to me initially from certain archaic civilizations.*"

The work, in addition to evoking distant cultures and remote times, offers an intimate insight into Pomodoro's creative and introspective process. It is an experience that blends autobiographical elements and milestones of the master's artistic journey, showing the continuous transformation and reworking of known sculptures and the birth of new forms in the making.

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# Arnaldo Pomodoro

The Labyrinth is a perfect synthesis of the creative journey of Arnaldo Pomodoro, who, born in Montefeltro in 1926 and moved to Milan in 1954, has developed a unique sculptural writing over the years. From his first works in the 1950s, characterized by enigmatic high-reliefs, to the majestic installation of the Labyrinth, the artist has constantly dialogued with matter and history, translating archaic symbols into a contemporary language.

In continuity with the partnership between FENDI and Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, the venue houses, in addition to the environmental work *Entrance into the Labyrinth*, two costume works created by the artist and now on display in the Solari 35 atrium: *Costume of Dido* (for *Dido*, *Queen of Carthage* by Christopher Marlowe, staged in Gibellina in 1986) and *Costume of Creon* (for *Oedipus Rex* by Igor Stravinsky, staged in Siena in 1988).

On the occasion of the reopening, the work underwent major restoration and cleaning. In particular, the renovation of the lighting system curated by Lisa Marchesi Studio improved the energy consumption and performance of the entire lighting stock with new luminaires produced by Viabizzuno and a Casambi control system.

The visit to the Labyrinth, lasting about 45 minutes, is an immersive experience that allows visitors to explore not only Pomodoro's imagery and poetics, but also the ways, conceptual and concrete, in which the artist creates his works. A place where space, myth and art come together in a unique and timeless experience.

## Opening to the public: March 20, 2025

## Tour duration: approximately 45 minutes with guide

Reservations are open for individual, group and school visits. Access to the Labyrinth is by reservation only.

For tour reservations and more information visit fondazionearnaldopomodoro.it

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## Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro

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Established in 1995, the Foundation operates according to Arnaldo Pomodoro's desire to create a place open to the reinterpretation of twentieth-century art and the creativity of young artists, a collective space of living experience, which aims at an involvement, deep and global, with people and society. Its mission is to promote initiatives for the conservation, valorization, scientific and educational dissemination of Arnaldo Pomodoro's artistic and historical heritage and the work of modern and contemporary artists, both Italian and international.

### **FENDI Solari 35**

The space is a former industrial plant called Riva&Calzoni, which was dedicated to the production of electric turbines since the late 1800s. The company exported the first turbines for the Niagara Falls hydroelectric power plant, beginning a history of Italian excellence that lasts to this day. In 1999 the building was acquired by artist Arnaldo Pomodoro to become his studio and exhibition venue, the only space where he could place the magnificent Novecento brass sculpture, now located in Rome's EUR district and near the Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana, the Maison's Roman headquarters. In 2013, FENDI established its Milan headquarters there, at 35 Via Solari, which still houses the environmental work *Entrance into the Labyrinth*, one of the most significant and representative of Arnaldo Pomodoro's artistic career.

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