

# 2JFK

## by Sergio Lombardo

The **Italian Cultural Institute**, in collaboration with the **Embassy of Italy**, invites you to attend “**2JFK by Sergio Lombardo**”, an exhibition and a conversation with Italian artist Sergio Lombardo and Dr. Miriam Mirolla, professor at Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma.

The conversation will be an opportunity to explore the work of Sergio Lombardo and his stance when portraying high caliber figures such as former President John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFK). The two portraits of JFK, currently on display at the Center for Italian Modern Art CIMA (421 Broome Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10013, will represent the jumping off point of the discussion, followed by a Q&A session with the public.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kennedy's death, the evening also intends to underline JFK's symbolic relevance, as a model of charismatic leadership and a source of inspiration for today's international politics.

Dr. Miriam Mirolla will delve into the concept of John F. Kennedy as a mediatic figure and aesthetic inspiration both in the past and nowadays, especially in relation to the portraits created by artist Sergio Lombardo between 1961 and 1963.

### ABOUT SERGIO LOMBARDO

Italian artist Sergio Lombardo was born in 1939 and lives and works in Rome.

A prominent exponent of the School of Piazza del Popolo, in 1970 he was given a personal room at the Central Pavilion of the Venice Biennale. In the late Seventies he founded the Teoria Eventualista (Eventualist Theory) and the Journal of Psychology of Art (1979).

Sergio Lombardo has always been interested in the psychological influence of mass media stimuli. In the first half of the 1960s, the representation of John F. Kennedy and other international politicians acquired considerable centrality. Created from 1961 to 1964, “Typical Gestures” and “Colored Politicians” were born from the idea of transforming the portrait of authoritative and extremely recognizable men into "abstract chromatic maps", capable of influencing individual perception beyond the threshold of consciousness.

Professor Emeritus at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, Lombardo's works have been in exhibitions at the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo (1967), the Jewish Museum in New York (1968), the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (1969, 1995), the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Dallas Museum of Art (2015), Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome (2019), MAECI (2022).

His works are present in numerous international museums, including the Philadelphia Museum of Contemporary Art.

In 2017 Stochastic Painting and the Eventualist Theory were launched at the Italian Cultural Institute in Beijing.

### ABOUT MIRIAM MIROLLA

Miriam Mirolla is a professor at the Accademia di Belle Arti (the Academy of Fine Arts) in Rome. She joined Centro Studi Sperimentalni Jartrakor in Rome in 1985 and the “Teoria Eventualista” (Eventualist Theory), which views art as means to experience interaction between the viewer and the artwork.

She is Courtesy Professor at Florida International University of Miami and Visiting Professor of Design Culture at the Future Design Center of Zhuhai of Beijing Normal University, China.

Founder and President of the think tank “Pensare Insieme” (Thinking Together), Dr. Mirolla has written numerous books and curated numerous group and personal exhibitions, including “Per una storia politica dell’arte: Kennedy, Krusciov, Mao di Sergio Lombardo” (For a political history of art: Kennedy, Khrushchev, Mao by Sergio Lombardo, at MAECI, Rome, 2022). As an author, her research focuses on the psychology of Eventalist Art, on international philanthropy and on the link between art and sustainability.

Recently, she curated “JFK’s Strategy for Peace Speech, 60 years later”, an international conference at Ara Pacis Auditorium in Rome (June 2023).

Miriam is currently Head of External Relations at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome.