

UGO RONDINONE
SUNS AND MOONS



Ether Schipper

Ugo Rondinone



Ugo Rondinone was born in 1964 in Brunnen, Switzerland. He studied at the Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst, Vienna. The artist currently lives and works in New York.

In 1991, 1994, and 1995, Rondinone received the Swiss Eidgenössischer Preis für freie Kunst.

In 2007, Rondinone represented Switzerland at the 52nd Venice Biennale. Referring concurrently to the natural world, romanticism and existentialism, the works of Ugo Rondinone encapsulate a “mental trinity” that has underpinned his art for thirty years.

Selected solo exhibitions include: **sunrise. east**, Städel Museum, Frankfurt (2023); **the sun and the moon**, Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, New York (2023); **when the sun goes down and the moon comes up**, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva (2023); **the water is a poem unwritten by the air no. the earth is a poem unwritten by the fire**, Petit Palais, Paris (2022–23); **burn shine fly**, Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice (2022); **nude in the landscape**, Belvedere 21, Vienna (2021–2022), **vocabulary of solitude**, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Auckland (2021); **your age and my age and the age of the rainbow**, Belvedere Palace Garden, Vienna (2021); **Ugo Rondinone. a wall. a door. a tree. a lightbulb. winter**, Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand (2021); **everyone gets lighter**, Kunsthalle Helsinki (2019); **sunny days**, Guild Hall, East Hampton (2019); **vocabulary of solitude**, ARKEN Museum for Moderne Kunst, Ishøj (2017); **let's start this day again**, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2017); **good evening beautiful blue**, The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach (2017); **the world just makes me laugh**, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley (2017); **giorni d'oro + notti d'argento**, MACRO Testaccio and the Mercati di Traiano, Rome (2016); **Moonrise Sculptures**, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2016); **golden days and silver nights**, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney (2015).

Upcoming solo exhibitions in 2022 include: **vocabulary of solitude**, Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City (June 5 – October 30, 2022), in Frankfurt: a survey exhibition **lifetime** at the Schirn Kunsthalle concurrent with a sculpture installation in the Städel Museum's garden (June 24 – October 18, 2022).

Rondinone has curated three exhibitions on the relationship between art and poetry, **artists and poets**, Secession, Vienna (2015), **the spirit level**, Gladstone Gallery, New York (2011), **the third mind**, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2007). He also created an exhibition dedicated to the life and work of the poet John Giorno, entitled **I Love John Giorno**, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2016).

Rondinone's work is held in the following collections: The Bass Museum of Art, Miami; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome; Migros Museum, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Strasbourg; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; New Museum, New York; The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, among others.

Inaugurated in early May 2016, Rondinone's large-scale outdoor sculpture **Seven Magic Mountains**, realized by the Art Production Fund and the Nevada Museum of Art, is on view in the desert near Las Vegas. In October 2018, Ugo Rondinone launched **Liverpool Mountain**, his first public sculpture in the UK and the first of its kind in Europe, at Mermaid Courtyard outside Tate Liverpool.



Exhibition view: **the sun**, Chateau De Versailles, Versailles, 2017



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SUNS AND MOONS

Ugo Rondinone's **sun** and **moon** sculptures consist of bronze cast from encircling tree branches gilded with gold leaf (**suns**) or with silver leaf (**moons**). Evoking the celestial bodies, Rondinone's sculptures express a positive energy that the artist associates with the sun and the moon. The artist began this new body of work in 2016 with the installation of a **sun** sculpture in the gardens of the Palace of Versailles. The sublime forces of time and nature are a recurring motif within Rondinone's practice.

His work often evokes the tensions between the immediate present and the inconceivable eventual. His interest in what he calls "primitive materials" such as the bronze and the reference to tree branches in the case of his Sun sculptures, stems from contemplation, stillness and inaction. The over-life size scale of many of his pieces, gives his work a monumental air that suggests a connection both to archaic pre-historic objects and to the wonder of the childhood imagination.

EXHIBITIONS:

Ugo Rondinone. when the sun goes down and the moon comes up, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (January 26 – June 18, 2023)

Ugo Rondinone, burn shine fly, Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice (April 20 – September 17, 2022)

We Gave a Party for the Gods and the Gods All Came. John Giorno, Servane Mary, Ugo Rondinone, Apalazzo, Brescia (08 September 8 – November 20, 2020)

sunny days, Guild Hall, East Hampton (August 10 – October 14, 2019)

the sun, Art Basel Unlimited (June 18 – June 21, 2019)

Voyage d'hiver, Jardins du Château de Versailles (October 22, 2017 – January 7, 2018)



the sun (2017), installed permanently at Domaine des Etangs, Massignac



the sun IV, 2022, gilded bronze, ø 500 cm (196 7/8 in), edition of 3 (UR 554).
Exhibition view: **Ugo Rondinone. when the sun goes down and the moon comes up**, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (2023)



the sun, 2021, gilded bronze, 500 x 538 x 82 cm (196 7/8 x 211 3/4 x 32 1/4 in), edition of 3.
Exhibition view: Ugo Rondinone, **burn shine fly**, Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice (2022)



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Exhibition view: Ugo Rondinone, **burn shine fly**, Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice (2022)



the sun, 2021, gilded bronze, 500 x 538 x 82 cm (196 7/8 x 211 3/4 x 32 1/4 in), edition of 3.
Exhibition view: Ugo Rondinone, **burn shine fly**, Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista, Venice (2022)



Exhibition view: **sunny days**, Guild Hall, East Hampton, 2019



the sun at 8 am, 2019, gilded bronze, ø 140 cm (55 1/8 in), edition of 3 (UR 306).
Installed hanging on a special nail on a wall



the sun at 3 pm, 2018, gilded bronze, ø 225 cm.
Installed standing on an artist-made pedestal



Exhibition view: **Ugo Rondinone: the sun and the moon**, Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, NY (2023)



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Exhibition view: Ugo Rondinone, **when the sun goes down and the moon comes up**, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva (2023)



the moon at 2 pm, 2021, silverleafed bronze, ø 170 cm (66 7/8 in), edition of 3 (UR 393)



the moon at 1 am, 2021, silverleafed bronze, ø 100 cm, edition of 3

ESTHER SCHIPPER GMBH
POTSDAMER STRASSE 81E
D-10785 BERLIN
TEL: +49 (0)30 374433133
FAX: +49 (0)30 374433134
WWW.ESTHERSCHIPPER.COM
OFFICE@ESTHERSCHIPPER.COM