

GABRIELLA CRESPI - NEW BRONZE AGE

On the occasion of the Milan Furniture Fair, set to begin on April **14th**, 2015, and as part of the "Fuorisalone" events, the RITA FANCSALY Gallery presents **"NEW BRONZE AGE"**, an exhibition featuring a series of new limited editions of classic pieces **made in a new version** by the renowned designer GABRIELLA CRESPI.

In the 1970s and 80s, at a time when there were very few women designers, GABRIELLA CRESPI's charismatic personality and creative talents as an artist and designer left an indelible imprint on contemporary design culture.

Her studies in architecture at the Milan Polytechnic, together with her ability to seek out silence and solitary reflection, allowed her to follow her own unique creative path, eschewing trendy movements. Her work, steeped in minimalist rigour, is inspired by the wonder of nature and the power of light.

Running counter to the fashionable design of the time, her works, reflecting her personal philosophy, result from a meeting of opposites: interior spaces and nature, humble materials boldly mixed with precious ones, the rigour of geometry side-by-side with warm, soft and resplendent surfaces, ergonomics and functionality concealed by apparently simple lines

In those years her work was a hit with the public worldwide, and her pieces were featured in homes belonging to the likes of King Feisal and the Shah Reza Pahlevi, the Greek shipbuilding magnate George Livanos, and actresses such as Grace Kelly. Her showrooms in Milan's Via Montenapoleone and Rome's Via Condotti hosted some of the leading stars of the international jet-set.

In the mid-1980s, the strong dualism that characterized all of her work and was an integral part of her personality led her to question everything and to drop her work as a designer. She embarked on a spiritual path that brought her to the Himalayan foothills of India, where she would live for the next 25 years.

Upon her return to Milan, a major monographic exhibition, "The Sign and the Spirit", was held in her honour at Palazzo Reale. It featured all of her most important works, from her debut in the 1950s up to the 1980s, including her renowned "*Lune*" and her "*Plurimi*" line of furniture, as clever as they were functional in their ability to change shape and function; her bronze and wood animal sculptures, her jewels conceived through the process of lost wax casting, and everything else she designed and manufactured in over 30 years of creative activity.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of her daughter **Elisabetta**, who has worked alongside her since the 1970s, GABRIELLA CRESPI presents her new project on the prestigious premises of the RITA FANCSALY Gallery at Via Brera 6 in Milan. For over twenty years, the gallery has been hub for art collectors and connoisseurs worldwide, and is the ideal setting for presenting the new bronze table "**Ellisse**" and **writing desk "Z"**, the bronze-and-steel table "**Dama**", and the bronze-and-lacquer bar "**Yang-Yin**", all in limited editions of nine.

For the first time, GABRIELLA CRESPI **presents** a work designed in collaboration with someone else, a new version of her renowned "**Puzzle**" table, whose countertop is made of Murano glass tiles, unique pieces conceived and designed by the architect Franco Deboni, internationally renowned for his glass creations.