



## BELMOND

# 'MITICO', BELMOND'S ARTISTIC SERIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GALLERIA CONTINUA, RETURNS FOR ITS SECOND SEASON LAUNCHING INTERNATIONALLY WITH INSTALLATIONS IN SPAIN, ITALY, UK, AND BRAZIL

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**APRIL 2023** - Building on the success of its Italian debut in 2022, MITICO, an artistic collaboration between Belmond and internationally renowned art gallery Galleria Continua, launches onto the global stage for its second season, presenting works by seven contemporary artists in seven of Belmond's captivating grounds in Spain, Italy, UK, and Brazil.

The 2023 season showcases contemporary art installations at La Residencia, A Belmond Hotel, Mallorca; Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, A Belmond Hotel, Oxfordshire; Copacabana Palace, A Belmond Hotel, Rio de Janeiro; Villa Sant'Andrea, A Belmond Hotel, Taormina Mare; as well as returning to Grand Hotel Timeo, A Belmond Hotel, Taormina; Villa San Michele, A Belmond Hotel, Florence; and Castello di Casole, A Belmond Hotel, Tuscany.

This year's installations focus on the interaction between human identity and the natural world, as well as the inevitable clash between technology and raw landscapes. By taking the unique views, gardens and facades of legendary Belmond properties as their backdrop and canvas, the art installations reframe these iconic vistas in a new light, giving the spectator a unique insight into our place in the world.

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## **IDENTITY AND UPROOTING: ARCANGELO SASSOLINO AT LA RESIDENCIA, MALLORCA**

Nestled in Mallorca's UNESCO protected Sierra de Tramuntana, in the heart of the renowned artistic village of Deia, La Residencia, A Belmond Hotel is drenched in bohemian spirit, playing home to writers, artists and musicians seeking inspiration, for decades. Within this natural oasis and creative escape, Italian artist Arcangelo Sassolino's work will stand in harsh juxtaposition. *Hunger (2006/2007)* features a hydraulic claw driven by an oil pump, moving like an oversized mechanical spider.

Through this oversized claw composed of large steel blades, the artist strips the industrial object of its function and context, placing it on a flat surface where it cannot gain traction - thus rendering it obsolete. The claw however continues its mechanical motions, desperately attempting to rip and uproot the ground beneath it - a slow and poetic dance that further nullifies its original strength. Although unable to uproot the beautiful surrounding landscape, the continuous lacerating motion of the claw leaves furrows on the concrete as if it is seeking to sculpt a new identity within La Residencia's beautiful gardens. It is not lost on the viewer that when put to another use, the ancient olive groves that surround La Residencia would be at risk from this machine, which has now been made powerless by the artist.

*The art installation will be available to view by guests and visitors alike, from 5 May until the end of October 2023*

## **IDENTITY AND SOCIETY: YOAN CAPOTE AT GRAND HOTEL TIMEO AND VILLA SANT'ANDREA, SICILY**

High up in the Taormina Hills, Grand Hotel Timeo, A Belmond Hotel offers a front row on the eternal island's beauty. Here, artist Yoan Capote installs a selection of sculptures, including handcuffs encircling an olive tree, entitled "*Stress*", "*Self-portrait*", "*Speechless*", "*On our shoulders*", "*Deriva*", and "*Urban Nature*". These will be showcased throughout the hotel's expansive gardens overlooking the force of nature that is Mount Etna volcano. In this environment, it's impossible not to feel the full creative and destructive forces at play. These works represent acts of resistance, moments where human instinct is to revolt in the face of neglect or domination by global forces.

On the beautiful shores of Taormina Mare, Villa Sant'Andrea, A Belmond Hotel, will display Yoan Capote's "*Family Portrait (installation)*", an ode to the artist's own heritage. Hailing from Cuba, he portrays the sea as a force of both connection and isolation - a means of escape but also a barrier to do so. The work, consisting of mirrors framed that encase and reflect the private Bay's unique marina landscape, as the fragments bounce off the beautiful sea bed, the reflections intertwine with the pristine nature, opening up questions of identity and belonging.

The work also alludes to the song 'Foto de familia' by Carlos Varela, one of the most emblematic songs for Yoan Capote's generation in Cuba, which bravely reminds the viewer of the many different connotations and sentiments evoked by the sea. It is a painful reminder that the sea - a symbol of joy, beauty and calm for many - is also a place of tragedy, loss and despair. Viewers will be encouraged to feel compassion and empathy when contemplating the powerful work.

*The art installation will be available to view by guests and visitors alike, from 12 May until the end of October 2023 at Villa Sant'Andrea, and until 7 January 2024 at Grand Hotel Timeo.*

## **IDENTITY IN SPACE: SUN YUAN & PENG YU AT VILLA SAN MICHELE**

Villa San Michele, a 16th century monastery with uninterrupted panoramic views of the city of Florence, will present 'Teenager & Teenager' by Chinese artists Sun Yuan and Peng Yu, both reputed for the often disorientating and provocative nature of their works, as well as their uncanny use of materials. The positioning of these works under the monastic century arches of the entrance and corridors of the hotel is particularly intriguing, as they are rendered oblivious of the architectural majesty of a Renaissance masterpiece inspired by Michelangelo.

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The works represent hyper-realistic sculptures of people seated on a sofa and armchairs whose heads have been replaced by huge rocks, thus preventing the viewer from identifying these mysterious characters, as well as erasing any possible form of communication. Both a humorous and sinister representation of society in modern times.

Sun Yuan and Peng Yu are known for their meditations on the human condition, which they achieve by stripping us of our conventional methods of filtering and framing the world. In this case, their interest lies in the nature of communication, as well as its limitations. By exploring the rules that are imposed on us — or that we impose on ourselves — the artists invite the viewer to free themselves of limitations and approach our place in the world with a new perspective.

*The art installation will be available to view by guests and visitors alike, from 21 May until 17 September 2023.*

### **IDENTITY OVER TIME: NARI WARD AT CASTELLO DI CASOLE**

Castello di Casole's grounds span over 4,200 acres of rural Tuscan countryside, providing the ideal home for *Stallers* (2013) by American artist of Jamaican origins Nari Ward, known for his sculptural installations created with discarded materials.

*Stallers*, a play on the word 'strollers,' consist of giant strollers, a seemingly playful reference to childhood encouraging viewers to stop, sit and relax as they move around the hotel gardens.

Strollers symbolically mark that critical moment when children leave their parents' arms to be 'pushed into the world'. Here, the disproportionate size and concrete wheels create a strong contrast to the original, flimsy childhood forms. The title, created from the verb 'to stall', reinforces this idea of blockage and immobility. Visitors are encouraged to sit in these forms and slip back into a meditation on our origins and youth, as well as reflecting on how our personal identities change over time depending on our environment.

*The art installation will be available to view by guests and visitors alike, from 24 May until 12 November 2023.*

### **IDENTITY AND NATURE: LORIS CECCHINI AT LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS**

Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, A Belmond Hotel, Oxfordshire presents *Arborexence* (2023,) a sculptural installation by Loris Cecchini, composed of a lattice of stainless steel that spreads harmoniously over the façade of the hotel. The property is distinguished for its impeccable and idyllic gardens, transforming seasonally, an emblematic representation of nature's cycles. The artists' sculptural piece highlights science through its molecular composition, branching out and expanding on the building's facade, mirroring the ivy's natural propagation. The sculpture becomes a second skin, tracing, restoring and renewing the building itself.

Going beyond the purely aesthetic aspect of nature, Loris Cecchini seeks to discover what lies beneath the surface, using scientific means to unveil complex structures and chemical bonds. Framed by the bountiful gardens of the property, spectators will be reminded of what lies within the beauty of nature and its forms. Loris Cecchini's work and Le Manoir's gardens are a perfect synergy, both, in their own ways, a celebration of nature and a reminder to protect it.

*The art installation will be available to view by guests and visitors alike from 30 June until spring 2024.*

*Exact dates to follow.*

More to come on the art installation at Copacabana Palace, A Belmond Hotel, Rio in due course.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Images of the 2023 MITICO artists [here](#) and hotels [here](#).

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## ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond has been a pioneer of luxury travel for over 45 years, building a passion for authentic escapes into a portfolio of one-of-a-kind experiences in some of the world's most inspiring destinations.

Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, taking discerning global travellers on breathtaking journeys. Its portfolio extends across 24 countries with 50 remarkable properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train, remote beach retreats like Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian hideaways such as Splendido in Portofino, or unrivalled gateways to world natural wonders such as Hotel das Cataratas inside Brazil's Iguazu National Park. From trains to river barges, safari lodges to hotels, each unique property offers an incomparable experience with its own story to tell. The essence of the Belmond brand is built upon its heritage, craftsmanship and genuine, authentic service. Belmond sees its role as custodians of timeless heritage, dedicated to preserving its assets through sensitive ongoing restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

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## ABOUT GALLERIA CONTINUA

Galleria Continua is a leading international contemporary art gallery, which was founded in San Gimignano (Italy) in 1990, by three friends: Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo. Occupying a former cinema, Galleria Continua established itself and thrived in an entirely unexpected location, away from the big cities and the ultramodern urban centres, in a town – San Gimignano – steeped in history. This choice of location provided scope for the development of new forms of dialogue between unexpected geographies: rural and industrial, local and global, art from the past and the art of today, famous artists and emerging ones. Galleria Continua was the first foreign gallery with an international program to open in Beijing

in 2004, and in 2007 launched a new site for large-scale creations – Les Moulins – in the Parisian countryside. In 2015 the gallery embarked on new paths, opening a space in La Habana, Cuba, devoted to cultural projects designed to overcome every frontier. In the course of almost thirty years Continua has created a strong identity which remains faithful to a spirit of perpetual evolution and committed to developing the public's interest in contemporary art. That identity is grounded in two values – generosity and altruism – which lie at the heart of all its dealings with artists, the general public and its development as a whole. Galleria Continua is all about a desire for continuity between ages, the aspiration to have a part in writing the history of the present, and between different and unusual individuals and geographies. In 2020, the gallery's thirtieth year, it inaugurated a new space in Rome and one in São Paulo, followed in 2021 by the opening of a new venue in the fashionable Marais district in Paris. Also in 2021, the gallery opened a new space in Dubai at the Burj al-Arab, the iconic sail-shaped building located off Jumeirah beach.

[www.galleriacontinua.com](http://www.galleriacontinua.com)

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