***Iconic Italian artist Flavio Lucchini to showcase artworks at Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery***

One of the most prominent figures from the Italian world of art and culture, Flavio Lucchini, will showcase a series of his artworks at the new Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery on the Blue Waters Island from 6th February – 10th March 2020. The exhibition titled, ‘*From Fashion to Art, the Vogue Lesson’* will feature works by Lucchini including classics and unpublished works of the artist, all of which together offer a fusion of Flavio’s professional journey to date and his continuous search for the meaning of the dress, created with different mediums and styles, including bronze resin, steel sculptures, paintings, bas-reliefs, digital-art and dematerialization themes through conceptual art, keeping the message constant.

*“The women’s dress can convey beauty, irony, boldness, eroticism and many other emotions. They have represented a major part of my life and I have never considered them as simple shells, from the divine haute couture dresses, to miniskirts, to the hippy, folk, punk dresses and even burqas, with their ethical and aesthetic implications. Dresses are a tool which the world can witness the changes and aspirations of society, together with the celebration of beauty, femininity and creativity.”* – **Flavio Lucchini**

Flavio Lucchini’s artworks highlight the close link between art and fashion, thanks to his background as an avant-garde art director and publisher of L’Homo Vogue, Casa Vogue, Vogue Bambini and Lei-glamour in the 60’s and 70’s in Italy. He has seen trends fade away with every passing season and would always want to fix them with bronze, steel and resin in order to save them from their untimely destiny and make them last forever. A world of his own, where the dress goes back to be the enchanted and creative emotion as it was in his publishing days, Flavio’s exhibition at the Oblong gallery transforms fashion into art and puts art into fashion.

*“I like to move from classicism to new pop, in a sort of direct line, right between Canova and Jeff Koons. I’m interested in the mystery and magic of fashion. To glorify it and at the same time to desecrate it*” – **Flavio Lucchini**

\*RELEASE ENDS\*

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**About Flavio Lucchini:**

Flavio Lucchini was born in 1928, in Mantua, Italy. Post attending Milan Polytechnic in the faculty of Architecture, Flavio studied later at the Brera Arts Academy from 1946-50. In the 1960’s, he worked as a graphic designer and gained a reputation for his unique avant-garde work. In 1979 he collaborated with Corriere della Sera and created *Edimoda*, the first Italian publishing group specialized in high-target fashion publications. He created *Donna*, *Mondo Uomo*, *Moda* and other magazines that have influenced the content and the aesthetics of women’s magazines of the past decade. From 1965 to 1979, on behalf of Condè Nast, he launched *Vogue Italia* and created all the new magazines of the group (L’Uomo Vogue, Casa Vogue, Vogue Bambini, Lei-Glamour ecc). Lucchini is known as the most influential character in fashion editing. He continues to scout and support many young artists that will become stylists, photographers and successful journalists. In 1993 he left all his important commissions and began to explore the relationships between art and fashion. For several years Lucchini began to experiment with technique and materials, allowing him to accumulate a range of art-works. After 15 years of isolating himself in his studio, perfecting his works, he participated in his first exhibition. In 2004 he publishes the book “Dress-Art”, a life in fashion and in 2010 “From Fashion to Art: the Vogue Lesson” curated by Luca Beatrice, Edizioni Skira. In 2011, he was invited to Venice Biennale, to represent the Italian Pavillion. In 2012, he exhibited more than one hundred works in the anthological and institutional exhibition “On the dream of the body ‘living’” at the Palazzo Ducale, Sabbioneta (Mantua, Italy). In 2018, he published “Cahier”, an artist’s booklet signed and numbered in a limited edition of 100 copies, with original drawings inspired by the collections of Armani, Gigli, Versace of the early 90’s and “Il Destino – I had to be a farmer but I met fashion (and I’m not a fashion designer)”, an autobiographical book on the golden years of fashion and the experience of art in 90 memories. Lucchini, currently, divides his time between Milan, where he has his studio, and Paris, where in his Saint-Germain home-gallery he focuses completely on his art.

**About Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery:**

Oblong is a Dubai based Art Gallery and its mission is to create a successful global arena for culture and art. Primarily involved in promoting contemporary and modern art, operating both locally and on the international art platform; the gallery is a place of cultural exchange, exhibiting some of the highest quality artworks and giving a platform to artists from the region. Additionally, Oblong hosts a strong program of workshops, educational initiatives and a cross-cultural art exchange program between Dubai, U.A.E and Pietrasanta, on the coast of northern Tuscany in Italy. The gallery name was derived from the ‘oblong’ shape, which comes from three other shapes; a square, a circle and a rectangle. The founders of Oblong, Emanuela Venturini & Paola Marucci described the shape as a representation of their different backgrounds and characters. Emanuela and Paola have a shared vision and combined their love for art and culture to create a platform for cross-cultural exchange between Dubai (UAE) and Pietrasanta (Italy). With strong links to the Tuscan city of Pietrasanta, Oblong embodies the DNA of this historic city and honors its rich heritage.