

IGOR MITORAJ

Biography, Bibliography, Exhibitions

Biography

Igor Mitoraj was born on 26 March 1944 in Oederan, a small town in Saxony, Germany, from Polish mother and French father. He spent his youth in Krakow, where he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts. In his last three years, he studied under the tutelage of Tadeusz Kantor (1914-1990), the famous painter, movie director and theatre scenographer. In 1967, Mitoraj, together with other students, exhibited some of his works at a group exhibition held at the Krzysztofory gallery in Krakow.

In 1968 he moved to Paris to continue his studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux- Arts. The success of his first solo exhibition in 1976 at the La Hune Gallery in Paris encouraged Mitoraj to dedicate himself exclusively to sculpture. In the same period, he was awarded with the “Montrouge Prix de la Sculpture” and was also granted a studio in Montmartre, at the Bateau Lavoir, by the then French Minister of Culture.

In 1983 he chose to make Italy his permanent home and opened a studio in Pietrasanta.

In 1986 Mitoraj was invited to exhibit at the XLII Venice Biennale and in 1989 he showed his works for the first time at the New York Academy of Art. In the following years, Mitoraj’s works of art were exhibited in many solo and group exhibitions, including important international museums. At the same time, he received public commissions for monumental sculptures to be shown in major cities: London at the British Museum, Paris at La Défense, Atlanta and Tokyo. In Italy his works were exhibited in Florence, at the Uffizi Museum and at the Boboli Garden, in Rome and in Milan, “Fontana del Centauro” (1991) and "Omaggio a De Sabata” (Teatro della Scala, 1993).

In 2001 the Italian President awarded Mitoraj with the “Premio Vittorio de Sica” (Vittorio De Sica award). In 2002 and 2006 he prepared the set designs and costumes for the production of Puccini’s

Manon Lescaut and Tosca during the Puccini Festival at Torre del Lago (Viareggio, Italy). His monumental works “Dea Roma” and the doors for the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri were installed in Rome respectively in 2003 and 2006. In 2004 his monumental sculptures were exhibited at the Tuileries Gardens in Paris, at the Trajan’s Market in Rome and at the Royal Palace in Warsaw. The following year, his works were exhibited across the city of Venice for the exhibition “Mitoraj a Venezia”.

Igor Mitoraj was an honorary citizen of the Italian cities of Pietrasanta, Greve in Chianti e Massa Marittima. In 2007 he was also awarded with an honorary degree by the Academy of Fine Arts of Krakow.

In 2009 he completed two large projects, the set designs and costumes for the production of Verdi’s Aida at the Boboli Garden in Florence, and the monumental doors for the Jesuit church in Warsaw.

In 2010, the Facoltà dei Beni Culturali (Cultural Heritage Faculty) of the Università del Salento awarded Mitoraj with an honorary degree in archaeology.

In 2011 Mitoraj’s sculptures were exhibited at the Valle dei Templi in Agrigento (Sicily, Italy), and at the Archaeological Museum in Sarteano (Tuscany, Italy). The following year, his works were shown in Ravello (Italy), at the Chapel of Villa Rufolo and at the Auditorium Oscar Niemeyer. The same year, Mitoraj was awarded with a Commander's Cross of the Order of Reborn Poland.

In 2013 he celebrated the centenary of the Foundation Arena di Verona with the set designs for Verdi’s Messa da Requiem.

In 2014 his works were exhibited in the Piazza dei Miracoli and the Museum in Pisa, on the occasion of the 950th Anniversary of the foundation of the Cathedral.

Igor Mitoraj died in Paris on 6 October 2014.

In 2016, two years after his death, the exhibition “Mitoraj a Pompei” was inaugurated, materialising in this way a long-awaited dream of the artist. Around 30 works re-populated the ancient city in a perfect symbiosis between ancient and modern.

Selected Bibliography

1985

Maurizio Calvesi, Alberto Bevilacqua, Vittorio Sgarbi, Marisa Vescovo, *Igor Mitoraj, Sculpture*, Museo di Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome, Italy

Vittorio Sgarbi, *Igor Mitoraj, Sculpture*, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

1986

Giovanni Testori, *Igor Mitoraj, Sculpture*, Museo Castello Dell'Imperatore, Prato, Italy

Claudio Malberti, *Igor Mitoraj, Sculture 1976-1986*, Galerie La Hune, Paris, France

1987

Giovanni Tesori, *Igor Mitoraj, Sculture 1987*, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

1989

Maria Aurelia Capmany, *Igor Mitoraj*, Gallerie Sala Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Robert Rosenblum, *Igor Mitoraj, Sculptures*, New York Academy of Art, New York, USA

Maurizio Cecchetti, Giovanni Testori, *Mitoraj, Sculptures and Designs*, Rocca Malatestiana, Cesena, Italy

1990

Robert Rosenblum, Giovanni Testori *Igor Mitoraj, Sculptures and Drawings*, The Gerald Peter's Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA

1991

Donald Kuspit, *Tetes de Igor Mitoraj*, Galerie JGM, Paris, France

Donald Kuspit, Giovanni Testori, *Igor Mitoraj*, Castello Sforzesco, Milan, Italy

1992

Peter Murray, John Russel Taylor, *Igor Mitoraj*, Yorkshine Sculpture Park, Leeds, United Kingdom

1994

James Putnam, *Time Machine*, The British Museum, London, United Kingdom

1995

Italo Tommasoni, *Igor Mitoraj - Immagini della città (Images of the City)*, Macerata, Italy

Donald Kuspit, *Igor Mitoraj, Bitter Tear of Aphrodite*, Marisa Del Re Gallery, New York, USA

Peter Murray, Antonio Gala, John Russel Taylor, *Igor Mitoraj*, Casa del Cordon Cultural Center, Burgos, Spain

Giovanni Testori, Donald Kuspit, *Igor Mitoraj*, Galleria Pier Giuseppe Carini, Prato, Italy

1996

Gesualdo Bufalino, Roberto Ciuni, Giorgio Soavi, *Igor Mitoraj - Gli dei sono ancora qui (The Gods are Still Here)*, Siracusa, Italy

John Russel Taylor, *Igor Mitoraj - The Bitter Tears of Aphrodite*, Bath, United Kingdom

1997

Donald Kuspit, Robert Lunsingh Scheurleer, *Igor Mitoraj Raadselachtige Schoonheid*, Museum Beelden Aan Zee, Scheveningen, Netherlands

Julian Zugazagoitia, Flaminio Gualdoni, Adolfo Echeverria, *Mitoraj, Il Giardino delle Muse (The Muses' Garden)*, Libreria di via Senato, Milan, Italy

Giorgio Soavi, *Mitoraj, Sculptures*, Contini e Vecchiato Gallery, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

1998

Di Stefano, *L'ombra degli Dei (Shadow of the Gods)*, Milan, Italy

Kuspit, Mosebach, Vagheggi, *Igor Mitoraj*, Frankfurt, Germany

Kuspit, Soavi, Zugazagoitia, *Mitoraj Sculptures*, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

1999

Maurizio Calvesi, Donald Kuspit, Mario Lolli Ghetti, Litta Maria Medri, Antonio Paolucci, *Igor Mitoraj - Dei ed Eroi (Gods and Heroes)*, Museo Archeologico Nazionale e Giardini Boboli, Florence, Italy

2000

Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen, Mumm Akademie, Villa Hajo Rüter, Eltville - Internationales Künstlerhaus Villa Concordia, Bamberg ; Kunstverein Bamberg, Germany

Mitoraj: nostalgia del mito, Republic of San Marino, Italy

Contini Art Gallery, *Mitoraj, miti incrociati*, Venice, Italy

2001

Igor Mitoraj, nouvelle mythologie, Musée Olympique, Losanne, Switzerland

2002

Igor Mitoraj, Tega Gallery, Milan, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lugano, Switzerland

Igor Mitoraj: Die Schönheit – Eine zerbochene utopie, Institut Mathildenhoe Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany

Igor Mitoraj, Joan Gaspar Gallery, Madrid, Spain

2003

Mithra, Urok gorgony Muzeum, Norodowe, Warsaw, Poland

Igor Mitoraj, Interanational Cultural Centre, Crakow, Poland

Costanzo Costantini, *Igor Mitoraj*, Blask Kamienia, Crakow, Poland

Giorgio Soavi, *Il sapore di quelle bocche. Sculture di Mitoraj*, Milan, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Galeria Joan Gaspar, Madrid, Spain

2004

Mitoraj ai Mercati di Traiano, Mercati di Traiano, Rome, Italy

Igor Mitoraj Sculptures Monumentales, Tuileries Gardens, Paris, France

Costanzo Costantini, *Conversazioni con Igor Mitoraj, L'enigma della pietra*, Rome, Italy

Mitoraj Rysunki i Projecty, Zachenta Narodowa, Galeria Sztuki, Warsaw, Poland

2005

Igor Mitoraj Sculture, Catalogue of the exhibition, Museo di arte moderna Cà Pesaro, Venice, Italy

2006

Le porte degli Angeli, (Doors of the Angels), Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri, Rome, Italy

2008

BiancoNero, catalogo della mostra, Contini Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

2011

Igor Mitoraj: Parco Archeologico Valle dei templi di Agrigento, Agrigento, Italy

Igor Mitoraj: Agrigento, Valle dei Templi, Bandecchi e Vivaldi, The Swan Editions, Rome, Italy

2012

Memoriae, Igor Mitoraj, Ravello, Italy

2014

Mitoraj, Traces of Time, Contini Art UK, London, United Kingdom

Angeli, Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Piazza dei Miracoli, Pisa, Italy

2015

Omaggio a /An Homage to: Igor Mitoraj, Contini Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

Mitoraj. Mito e Musica, Piazza del Duomo e Complesso di Sant'Agostino, Pietrasanta, Italy

2016

Eike Schmidt and Richard Cork, *Mitoraj a Pompei*, Pompei, ed. Peruzzo Industrie Grafiche, Padova, Italy

2018

Igor Mitoraj: the art of wearing art, Contini Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

2021

Mitoraj: Noto and the Sicilian Unesco Sites, exhibition catalogue, Bandecchi & Vivaldi, Pontedera, Italy

Selected exhibitions

2022

Il tempo degli Eroi, Belvedere delle Maschere Seafront, Viareggio, Italy

2021

Mitoraj è Noto a Piazza Armerina, Piazza Armerina - Villa Romana del Casale, Sicily, Italy

Igor Mitoraj – Façade, Beelden aan Zee Museum, The Hague, Netherlands

2020

Mitoraj a Noto, Noto, Sicily, Italy

Novecento in Cortile, Accorsi – Ometto Museum of Decorative Arts, Turin, Italy

2018

The art of wearing art: I gioielli di Mitoraj, Contini Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

2016

Mitoraj a Pompei, sito archeologico di Pompei, Pompei, Italy

2015

Omaggio a Igor Mitoraj, Contini Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

Mitoraj. Mito e Musica, Pietrasanta, Italy

2014

Angeli, Piazza dei Miracoli, Pisa, Italy

Traces of Time, Contini Art UK, London, United Kingdom

2013

Annunciazione, Chiesa e chiostro di Sant'Agostino, Pietrasanta, Italy

Mitoraj. Sculture, Museo di Castelvecchio, Verona, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Ministero degli affari esteri, Berlin, Germany

2012

Igor Mitoraj – Skulpturen, University, Francoforte, Germany

Scenografia e Costumi Opera Aida, Giardino di Boboli, Doha, Qatar

Memoriae, Cappella di Villa Rufolo - Auditorio Niemeyer, Ravello, Italy

VI Triennale d'Arte Sacra Contemporanea - Il Mistero e la Speranza, Arcidiocesi in Lecce, Italy

2011

Igor Mitoraj, Valle dei templi di Agrigento, Sicily, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Museo Archeologico, Sarteano, Italy

2010

Mitoraj monumental, Aix-en-Provence, France

Mitoraj monumental, Abbaye de Silvacane, France

Porte en bronze, Èglise de Confoux, Confoux, France

Mitoraj un Sculpteur a la Defense, La Defense, Paris, France

Opera Festival: Aida, Giardino di Boboli, Florence, Italy

2009

Porte des Anges, Matki Bozej Laskawej, Warsaw, Poland

Lux in Tenebris, Fabryka Trzciny, Warsaw, Poland

Bronzes Noirs, Galleria Flora Bigai, Pietrasanta, Italy

2008

BiancoNero, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

Ferro, Palazzo dell'Abbondanza, Massa Marittima, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Canada

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Museo del Prado, Madrid, Spain

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Almería, Spain

2007

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Rambla de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Seville, Spain

Igor Mitoraj. Angeli ed eroi, Loggiato San Bartolomeo, Palermo, Italy

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, San Sebastian, Spain

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, La Corogne, Spain

2006

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Granada, Spain

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Gran Via Marqués del Turia, Valencia, Spain

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Arte en la calle: Igor Mitoraj. El mito perdido, Vigo, Spain

Festival Puccini: Tosca, Torre del Lago, Italy

Porte en bronze, Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri, Rome, Italy

2005

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture, Musei Civici Veneziani, Ca' Pesaro, Venice, Italy

2004

Sculptures: Cité perdue, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures monumentales, Jardin des Tuileries, Paris, France

Mitoraj ai Mercati di Traiano, Mercati di Traiano, Rome, Italy

Zamek Królewski, Warsaw, Poland

2003

Igor Mitoraj, International Center of Culture, Krakow, Poland

Museum Narodowe, Poznań, Poland

Igor Mitoraj, Galería Joan Gaspar, Madrid, Spain

2002

Die schönheit. Eine zerbochene utopie, Istitut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Germany

Igor Mitoraj, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Lugano, Switzerland

Igor Mitoraj, Galleria Tega, Milan, Italy

JGM Galerie, Paris, France

Festival Puccini: Manon Lescaut, Torre del Lago, Italy

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

2001

Igor Mitoraj, nouvelle mythologie, Musée Olympique, Lausanne, Switzerland

Die Galerie, Kaiserplatz, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

2000

Mitoraj miti incrociati, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Venice, Italy

Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen, Mumm Akademie, Villa Hajo Rüter, Eltville, Germany

Igor Mitoraj, Plastiken und Zeichnungen, Kunstverein Bamberg, Villa Concordia, Bamberg, Germany

Recent Bronzes, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Canada

Mitoraj: nostalgia del mito, City of San Marino, San Marino

1999

Igor Mitoraj. Dei ed Eroi, Palazzo Pitti, Museo Archeologico, Giardino di Boboli, Florence, Italy

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Museo degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy

Zoumboulakis Galleries, Athens, Greece

1998

Die Galerie, Opernplatz, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Mitoraj. Sculture, Contini Art Gallery, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

1997

La Défense, KPMG, Paris, France

Igor Mitoraj. Raadselachtige Schoonheid, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Scheveningen, Netherlands

Mitoraj, Il giardino delle muse, Biblioteca di via Senato, Milan, Italy

Istituto polacco, Rome, Italy

Mitoraj. Sculture, Contini Art Gallery, Forte dei Marmi, Italy

Chiesa di Sant'Agostino, Piazza Duomo, Pietrasanta, Italy

1996

Academy Gallery, Bath, United Kingdom

Igor Mitoraj, Galleria d'Arte Contini, Prato, Italy

Marisa Del Re Gallery, Palm Beach, Miami, Florida, USA

1995

Igor Mitoraj, Casa del Cordón, Burgos, Spain

Igor Mitoraj, Contini Art Gallery, Prato, Italy

Larmes amères d'Aphrodite, Marisa Del Re Gallery, New York, USA

Park Ryu Sook Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

Chiostro San Francesco, Galleria Medusa, Cesena, Italy

1994

Time machine, The British Museum, London, United Kingdom

Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Muzeum Narodowe, Wrocław, Poland

Galerie Nationale, Łódź, Poland

Galería Lévy, Madrid, Spain

Sala Imagen, Seville, Spain

Museo de Navaja, Pamplona, Spain

Fundación Caja Vital Kutxa, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain

1993

JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

Galeria Krdegarda, Warsaw, Poland

Galleria Forni, Bologna, Italy

Università de Cracovie, Krakow, Poland

Galerie Nazionale, Poznań, Poland

1992

The Economist Plaza, London, United Kingdom

BSG Fine Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Accademia Italiana, London, United Kingdom

Igor Mitoraj, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Leeds, Wakefield, United Kingdom

ARCO/JGM. Galerie, Madrid, Spain

1991

Têtes, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

Igor Mitoraj, Castello Sforzesco, Milan, Italy

Thomas Tivelli Gallery, Aspen, Colorado, USA

The M&I Rayburn Foundation, New York, USA

1990

Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures and drawings, Gerald Peters Gallery, Dallas, Texas, USA

Stembock-Fermor Gallery, Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden

1989

Igor Mitoraj, Galería Joan Gaspar, Barcelona, Spain

Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures 1989, New York Academy of Art, New York, USA

Mitoraj. Sculture e disegni, Rocca Malatestiana, Cesena, Italy

1988

Galería Lévy, Madrid, Spain

Galleria Valente, Artforum, Hamburg, Germany

1987

Igor Mitoraj. Elegie per Roma, Galleria Due Ci, Rome, Italy

Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture 1987, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

Stembock-Fermor Gallery, Ghent, Belgium

1986

Igor Mitoraj. Sculptures 1976-1986, Galerie La Hune, Paris, France

Galerie Pierre Huber, Geneva, Switzerland

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture, Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, Italy

Galerie Stemmler-Adler, Heidelberg, Germany

1985

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture, Museo di Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome, Italy

Igor Mitoraj. Sculture, Compagnia del Disegno, Milan, Italy

Galleria Tavolozza, Palermo, Italy

Maison de la Culture, Metz, France

1984

Galerie l'Orangerie, Cologne, Germany

Igor Mitoraj. Sculpturen, Zeichnungen, Galerie Lévy, Hamburg, Germany

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Galleria Toninelli, Rome, Italy

1983

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Galerie Artcurial, Fribourg, Switzerland

Galerie Cuppillard, Saint-Tropez, France

1982

CONTINI

GALLERIA D'ARTE

La Rocabella, Monte-Carlo, Monaco

Kunst in Köln, Galerie Lévy, Cologne, Germany

1981

Galerie Artcurial, Paris, France

Galerie Lévy, Paris, France

Kunst in Köln, Galerie Lévy, Cologne, Germany

1980

Fondation Veranneman, Kruishoutem, Belgium

Igor Mitoraj. Sculpturen, Galerie Lévy, Hamburg, Germany

Galerie Mathilde, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Galerie G. Bach, Geneva, Switzerland

1979

Galerie Cupillard, Grenoble, France

Galerie Bornand, Marseille, France

Studio 40, The Hague, Netherlands