

Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist:	Arnaldo Pomodoro
Title:	Sfera con Sfera (1986)
Medium:	Bronze
Location:	The Berkeley Library – forecourt, TCD Donated by the artist (with support from TCD and Italian organisations in Ireland).

b. Morciano di Romagna, Italy, 1926

Arnaldo Pomodoro is a very well rounded artist; he is a jeweller, stage designer, architect and sculptor. His undergraduate career was spent at a technical institute in Rimini and he attended the Faculty of Economics and Commerce in Bologna for a year. In the aftermath of World War II he worked as a consultant for an architectural firm, advising civil engineers on how to restore damaged buildings. From 1950 to 1954, he focused on set designing and goldsmithery, collaborating with his brother, Gio Pomodoro. On moving to Milan, the brothers became acquainted with Italian artists on the cutting edge of the political art movement, like Enrico Baj and Sergio Dangelo. However, they were also involved with 'classicists' in the Continuita movement, begun in 1961. Since the 1980s he has been particularly interested in designing sets for major theatrical events, most notably Stravinsky's *Oedipus rex* (Siena, 1988) Jean Anouilh's *Antigone* (1996) and Shakespeare's *Tempest* (1998). He has taught at such prestigious institutions as Stanford University and Berkeley. In 1992 he was awarded an Honorary Degree in Letters at Trinity College. He still lives and works in Milan.

The first *Sphere* series was produced in 1963, and the motif became a constant presence in his work. These pieces are cast from plasters of clay originals. Unlike the intricacies of goldsmithery, the grand scale of the spheres allows Pomodoro to create something with great clarity and breadth. The basic shapes of cube, cylinder and sphere are made raw, ripping them apart to focus on the internal structure, showing the texture and variety under the smooth surfaces. Pomodoro refers to this inner machinery as "sign systems", related to the complex systems of language or of organic bodies. The shape suggests a living body, a mineral form, but also the Earth; the break in the surface can be seen as a rupture, exposing the underlying layers down to the core. Viewed in this light, Pomodoro invites the viewer to circumnavigate the globe, imitating the uninterrupted rotational movement of planets.

Other works by the artist can be found in:

Vatican Museum, Vatican City

United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The information in this article was taken from www.oxfordartonline.com

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