

Maurizio Mochetti

(Rome, 1940)

Maurizio Mochetti's research goes back to the Italian Renaissance tradition, when art and science belonged to a single realm, both part and parcel of the creation of the artwork. Interested in the physics of atoms, quantum mechanics, and research into space and velocity, the artist investigates matter, concerned with its inner structure more than its physical appearance. According to Mochetti, art is "idea" and new scientific discoveries, new materials, and more advanced technologies can be utilized to improve his works, gradually bringing each of them closer to the initial idea.

While in art history light has often been interpreted as a metaphor, a symbol of consciousness, the transcendental, or the divine, for Mochetti, light, instead, is "a very ethereal solid," a material element that can be shaped. The artist's first experiments in this realm date from the mid-1960s, and the advent of laser technology in the 1980s allowed him to give new physical form to his ideas. *Travaso di luce (Transfer of Light)*, 1970 - 2007, is comprised of five aluminum cylinders arranged in the space. A beam of light passes through each bar and, moving within it, exits in alternation from both sides.

The modulation of this movement accentuates the sculptural nature of the luminous flow, which becomes an entity capable of modifying the surrounding space. The artist also investigated this concept in earlier versions, utilizing two existing spaces, adjacent or distant, and establishing a proportional relationship between the quantities of light present in each. (MB)