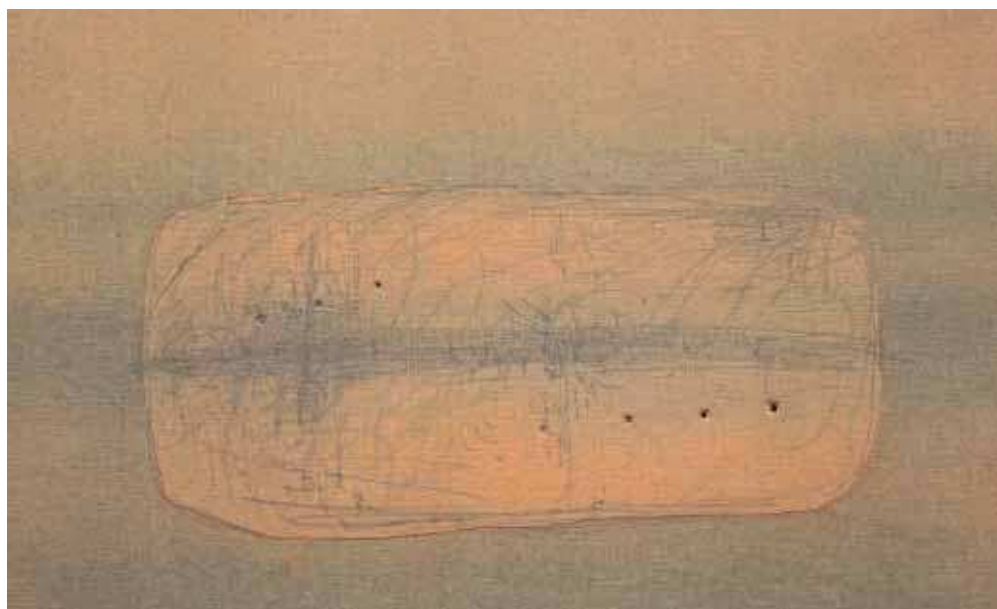


## Acquisitions for the Contemporary Art Department

# Lucio Fontana

(Property of Terga Gallery,  
Milan)  
For Acquisition  
Total Cost € 280.000,00



► This year, the Nineteenth century and Contemporary Art Department proposes the acquisition of a unique work of art: a rare *Aniline* painted by Lucio Fontana in 1957. This work is extremely important because it represents the beginning of the artist's new style which he continued to develop into 1958. In fact, beginning in 1958 Fontana started the so-called "slash" series, consisting of holes or slashes on the painting surface, drawing a sign of what he named "an art for the Space Age".

Lucio Fontana (Rosario, Argentina 19 February 1899 – Varese, Italy 7 September 1968) was a painter and sculptor, mostly known as the founder of Spatialism. Fontana spent the first years of his life in Italy and came back to Argentina in 1905, where he stayed until 1922, working as a sculptor along with his father and then on his own. In 1928 he returned to Italy, and there he presented his first exhibition in 1930, organized by the Milano art gallery *Il Milione*.

In 1940 he returned to Argentina. In Buenos Aires (1946) he founded the Altamira Academy together with some of his students, and made public the *White Manifesto*, where he states that "Matter, color and sound in motion are the phenomena whose simultaneous development makes up the new art." In Milan (1947), along with writers and philosophers, he supported the first manifesto of Spatialism (Spazialismo). In 1958 he started the "slash" series and in 1959 he exhibited cut-off paintings with multiple combined elements known as *quanta*. He participated in the Bienal de São Paulo and in numerous exhibitions in Europe, including London and Paris, and Asia, as well as New York. He died in 1968 and his works can be found in the permanent collections of more than one hundred museums around the world.