



LUCIO FONTANA

Concetto Spaziale, Attese

waterpaint on canvas, slashed

signed, titled and inscribed "*Domani parti per Parigi e poi a Berlino*" on the reverse

73 by 60cm (28.7 x 23.6 in)

1964

Market estimate: 2,200,000 - 2,800,000 USD

PROVENANCE

U. Loehr, Frankfurt

Private Collection, Milan (acquired in 1975)

Private Collection (acquired from Sotheby's London 2012)

Contemporary Art Evening Auction June 26, 2012 [Lot 00010]

Theoretical Sale: Sotheby's London, 11 November 2023, lot 99

LITERATURE

Enrico Crispolti, *Lucio Fontana Catalogo Generale*, Vol. II, Milan 1986, p. 540, no. 64 T 130, illustrated

Enrico Crispolti, *Lucio Fontana, Catalogo Ragionato di Sculture, Dipinti, Ambientazioni*, Milan 2006, p. 726, no. 64 T 130, illustrated


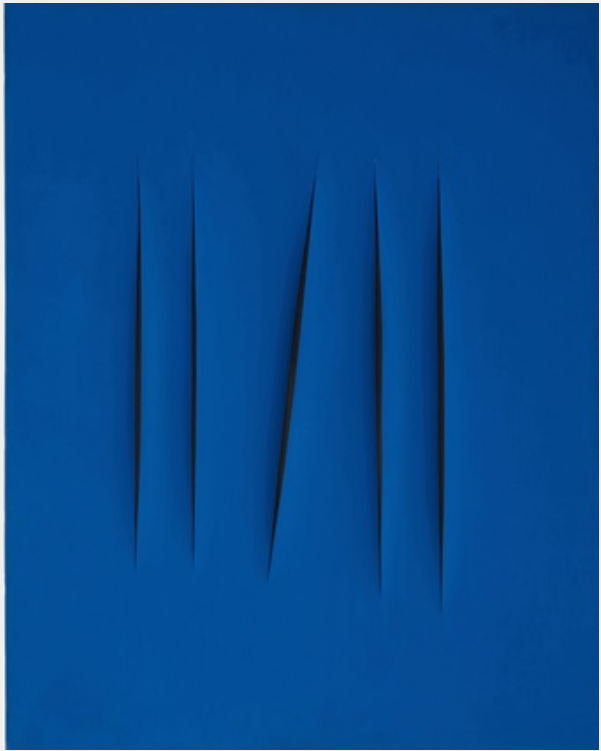
SELLING POINTS

Clean. Calculated. Slashed. Lucio Fontana's '*Concetto Spaziale, Attese*' series strike the tight balance between defining space and shattering it. Masquerading as a well-executed painting, Fontana's work is—in reality—a one-color canvas, slashed while wet and allowed to curl. The picture plane yawns wide, released from its confines.

Born in Argentina, 1905 saw Fontana to Italy for art school. The dominate art movement at the time—Futurism—must have made quite an impact on Fontana, for his own special Spatialism considers many of the same key aspects: dynamism, space, and the incorporation of new technologies. Channeling his interest in the void and infinity, Fontana began co-opting the very traditional medium of painting as a new way of exploring reality. His earlier *buchi* (holes) haphazardly perforate the canvas, while his later *Attese* series elongates and refines the act of cutting. In one of his last works before his death, an installation at *Documenta 4*, he slashes straight in the gallery wall: a final rip in space.

		
<i>Concetto Spaziale (buchi)</i> 1960	<i>Concetto Spaziale, Attese</i> 1964 [work on sale]	<i>Ambiente spaziale in Documenta 4</i> 1968

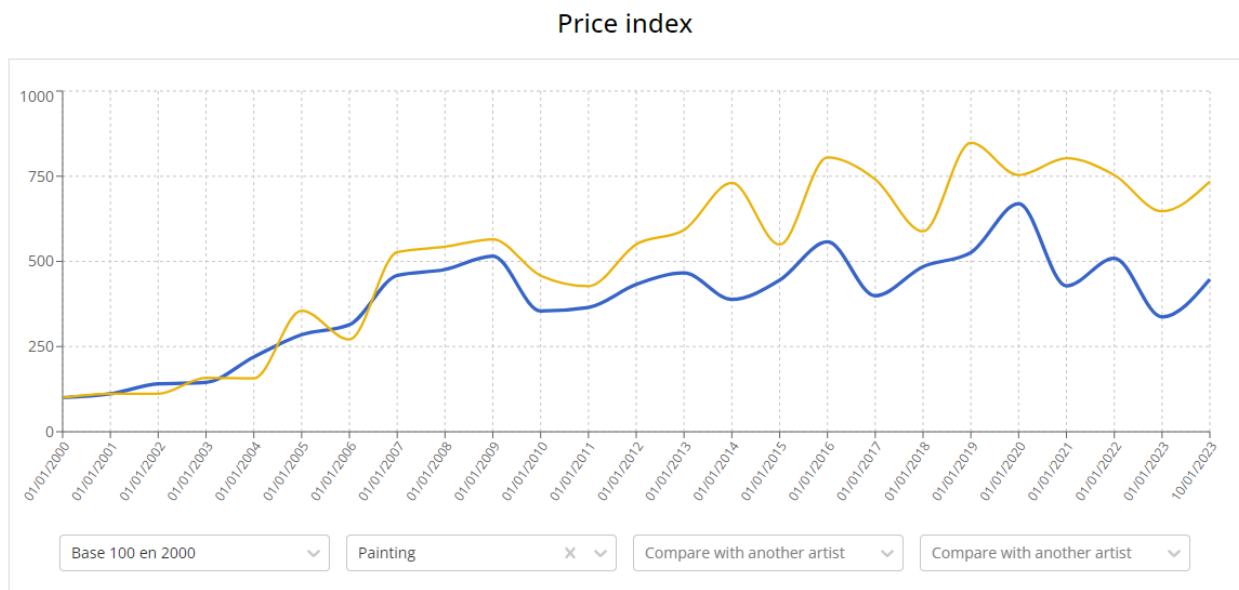
This particular "*Concetto Spaziale, Attese*" stands out for its vibrant red and its more rhythmically varied cuts. Though Fontana produced similar works in other colors, red remains one of his most popular choices—reflecting the seductive violence of "cutting" into the void. The cuts themselves aren't as restrained and uniform as his other works, lending itself to a particular animism.

	
<p><i>Concetto Spaziale, Attese</i> 1964 [work on sale]</p>	<p><i>Concetto Spaziale, Attese</i> 1968</p>

Fontana dies in 1968, just a few years after this particular *Attese*. As we become an evermore globalized society with newer innovations and technologies, Fontana's bold exploration of space confronts us with the constructed boundaries we have made for ourselves, and whether or not we have the courage to see beyond them.

AUCTION ESTIMATE

The current market for Fontana is not as strong as it once was. 2015 saw record sales of his *Concetto Spaziales*, bloating Fontana's market beyond reason. Compounded with the surprise Tory victory of Brexit and overall worsening global economy, sales have never recovered since. However, Fontana's "painting" category still consistently performs better than his overall average. This means that any *Attese* work will still have some amount of interest, albeit not as much as it perhaps did in 2015.


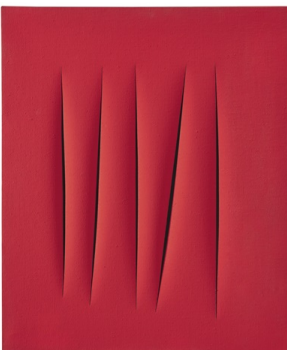
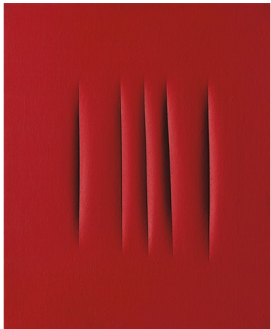


yellow = painting category, blue = average of all

Comparable red *Attese* works have sold for 2.3 million (2023), 3.0 million (2019), and 3.6 million (2018). Either just below (2023) or just within (2019, 2018) the estimate, it is clear Fontana's only appeals to a certain portion of the general art market. It may be that those who wanted a Fontana have already acquired it.

Therefore, though Fontana is not a trendy market, this work will most likely be able to retain its value as it is a significant piece of a well-known artist's historical narrative. I believe a reasonable market estimate is 2,200,000 - 2,800,000 USD—a small increase from its last sold price at 2,075,980 USD and a reasonable approximation for today's more tepid market.

COMPARABLES

	<p>Lucio Fontana Title Description Concetto spaziale, Attese Lucio Fontana (1899-1968)Concetto spaziale, Attesesigné, titré et inscrit 'l. font More ...</p> <p>Medium waterpaint on canvas Year of Work 1966 Size Height 28.8 in.; Width 23.7 in. / Height 73.2 cm.; Width 60.2 cm. Misc. Signed, Inscribed Sale of Christie's Paris: Friday, October 20, 2023 [Lot 00318] Avant-Garde(s) Including Thinking Italian</p> <p>Estimate 2,500,000 - 3,500,000 EUR (2,647,744 - 3,706,841 USD) Sold For 2,218,000 EUR Premium (2,349,078 USD)</p>
	<p>Lucio Fontana Title Description CONCETTO SPAZIALE, ATTESE signed, titled and inscribed 1+1 - 887Z on the reversewaterpaint on canvas6 More ...</p> <p>Medium waterpaint on canvas Year of Work 1963 Size Height 25.6 in.; Width 21.3 in. / Height 65 cm.; Width 54 cm. Misc. Signed, Inscribed Sale of Sotheby's London: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 [Lot 00021] Contemporary Art Evening Auction</p> <p>Estimate 1,800,000 - 2,500,000 GBP (2,282,815 - 3,170,577 USD) Sold For 2,415,000 GBP Premium (3,062,777 USD)</p>
	<p>Lucio Fontana Title Description CONCETTO SPAZIALE, ATTESE signed, titled and inscribed È venuta a trovarmi / la Clara on the reverse Executed in 19 More ...</p> <p>Medium waterpaint on canvas Year of Work 1965 Size Height 28.3 in.; Width 23.6 in. / Height 72 cm.; Width 60 cm. Misc. Signed, Inscribed Sale of Sotheby's Hong Kong: Saturday, March 31, 2018 [Lot 01078] Contemporary Art Evening Sale</p> <p>Estimate 15,000,000 - 24,000,000 HKD (1,911,120 - 3,057,792 USD) Sold For 28,813,500 HKD Premium (3,671,070 USD)</p>