

[Manzoni at the Tate](#)

[Manzoni at Hauser & Wirth](#)

[Fondazione Piero Manzoni](#)

## Piero Manzoni (Italian, 1933-1963)

Manzoni founded Azimut Gallery in 1959 with fellow artist Enrico Castellani. Read about the gallery on the O-INSTITUTE's [web-archive](#), which promotes research and disseminates knowledge about artist networks in the sixties. In 2011, Gagosian Gallery in London celebrated Azimut Gallery, which was open for just one year, with [an exhibition](#).

In 1961, Manzoni created the infamous [Artist's Shit](#) project. The 2020 [article](#) "Art or Crap – Literally? Decoding Artist's Shit by Piero Manzoni" by Balasz Takac dives deeper into the impact of this project on conceptual art.

Manzoni tragically died at the age of 29 from a heart attack in his studio. His impact on contemporary art was not fully realized for decades after his passing. In 1992, [Castello di Rivoli-Museo d'Arte Contemporanea](#) held a retrospective. This was followed by one at [Serpentine Gallery](#) in London in 1998.



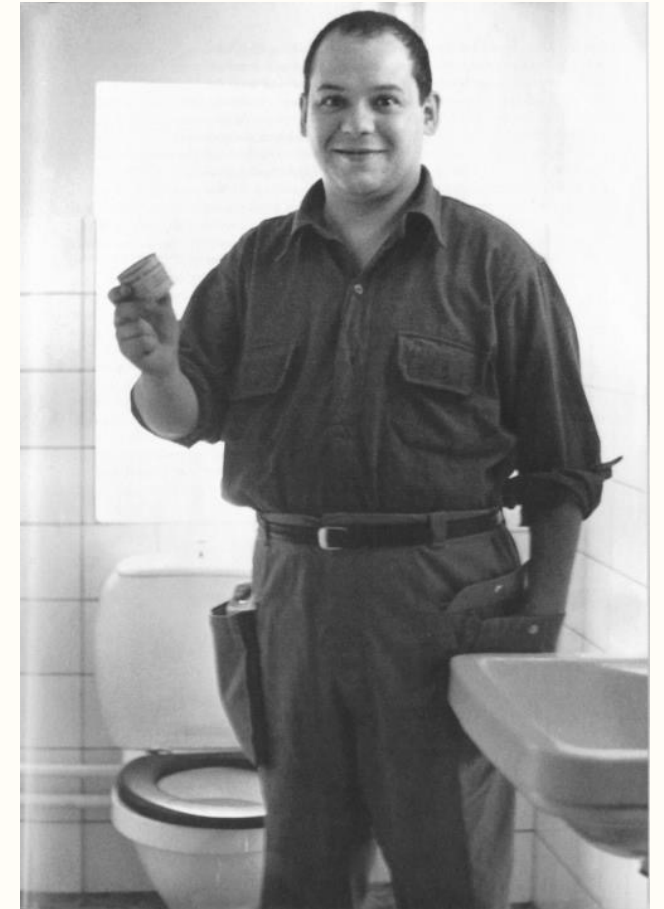
Manzoni, 1960  
Photograph: Ole Bjordal Bagger

[Manzoni: A Retrospective](#) opened at New York City's Gagosian Gallery in 2009. Read an [essay](#) included in the exhibition catalogue by art historian Benjamin H.D. Buchloh.

The Städel Museum installed [Piero Manzoni: When Bodies Became Art](#) in 2013.

Hauser & Wirth [took over](#) representation of the Piero Manzoni Foundation in 2017. The gallery's first exhibition [Piero Manzoni: Materials of His Time](#) opened at Hauser & Wirth Los Angeles in 2019. The exhibition was curated by Rosalina Pasqualino di Marineo, director of the Piero Manzoni Foundation in Milan, and featured over 70 of the artist's *achrome* series.

The Louisiana Museum of Art [interviewed seven artists](#) about Piero Manzoni's impact on their career. Hear from Marina Abramović, Jonathan Monk, Gavin Turk, Nanda Vigo, Wim Delvoye, Kimsooja, and Spencer Tunick.



Manzoni, 1960-1961  
Photograph: Ole Bjordal Bagger

Piero Manzoni (Italian, 1933-1963)

**Achrome**, 1958

Creased canvas and kaolin

Private Collection; L2021:184.5

Avant-garde Italian artist Piero Manzoni had a tragically short career and life, but his lasting impact on conceptual art and the Arte Povera movement in Italy was profound. Manzoni's **Achrome** works, named for their absence of color, attempt to remove the artist's hand from the production process. From 1957 until the artist's sudden death in 1963, Manzoni made the series by soaking canvas in kaolin, a soft, white clay that is the basis of porcelain. Under the weight of the drying clay, the canvas wrinkles and sags outside of the artist's control. The resulting works are not quite painting or sculpture. Instead, focus is directed to the "uncolored" material qualities of the work. The artist wanted to produce "a white that is not a polar landscape, not a material in evolution or a beautiful material, not a sensation or a symbol or anything else: just a white surface that is simply a white surface and nothing else..."

*On view January 19 – April 24, 2022*

