



Marino Marini: A Sculptor's Prints

2018

Marino Marini is the greatest Italian sculptor of the 20th century and his work very much embodies the joys and sorrows of that momentous period in European history.

An accomplished and prolific painter and printmaker as well as sculptor, Marini produced over 300 etchings and lithographs. This graphic work was perhaps as important to him as his sculpture, particularly in the use of colour as inspiration, as he eloquently describes:

"We as artists and men, always need some positive pole in order to develop an idea. The positive pole, for me, is colour. A yellow, a green, a red. One morning, perhaps when I am quiet, without any impulse to create anything, it is enough for a colour to get into me and stimulate me.....a colour insists, a colour becomes yours and, in this colour you discover a certain image. There starts what one may define the feeling for art."

This feeling for colour was often used economically and contrasted with an all-encompassing cement grey. Adapting his great themes to the media of print Marini celebrated grey through a range of beautifully subtle tones. Drypoint, aquatint and lithographic processes are well suited to textural and tonal effects and he used them all to great advantage.

Marini describes his creative aims as trying to fuse the inherent human aspiration for happiness with the drama and brutality of History weighing down on Man. All his work relates powerfully to history, classical images, forms that not only burst with an irrepressible life force but are simultaneously constrained within a skin stretched and bound, eroded and fragmented. Unlike his near contemporaries the Futurists, Marino Marini did not adopt the use of mechanical forms inspired by industry and mass production to be of 'the modern time'. He looked back in particular to the Etruscans for their primitive, joyful, poetic sense of life, bringing to his fecund forms and dynamic conjunctions a sense of conflict and suspense, a contemporary, ominous expression of man's potential for self-destruction.

In this impressive group of prints, Marini's personal poetry is expressed through image, line, tone, texture and colour, echoing directly the mass, weight, surface and form of his monumental achievements in sculpture. I am proud that we are able to present them in this exhibition and I hope you will share our delight and enthusiasm.

Rungwe Kingdon
March 2018

Cavalier et Cheval 1952
Lithograph
Edition 33/50
522 x 320 mm



Due Acrobati con Cavallo 1955
Lithograph
Edition 27/50
608 x 415 mm



Reiter auf Schwarzem Grund 1956
Lithograph
Edition 11/50
350 x 510 mm



Acrobati 1963
from the Suite 'Idea e Spazio', Plate XI
Etching & aquatint
Edition 31/50
395 x 300 mm



Cavaliere Superstite 1963
from the Suite 'Idea e Spazio', Plate VII
Etching & aquatint
Edition 50/50
395 x 300 mm



2/0

FONTANA

Guerriero 1963
from the Suite 'Idea e Spazio', Plate IX
Etching & aquatint
Edition 50/50
395 x 300 mm



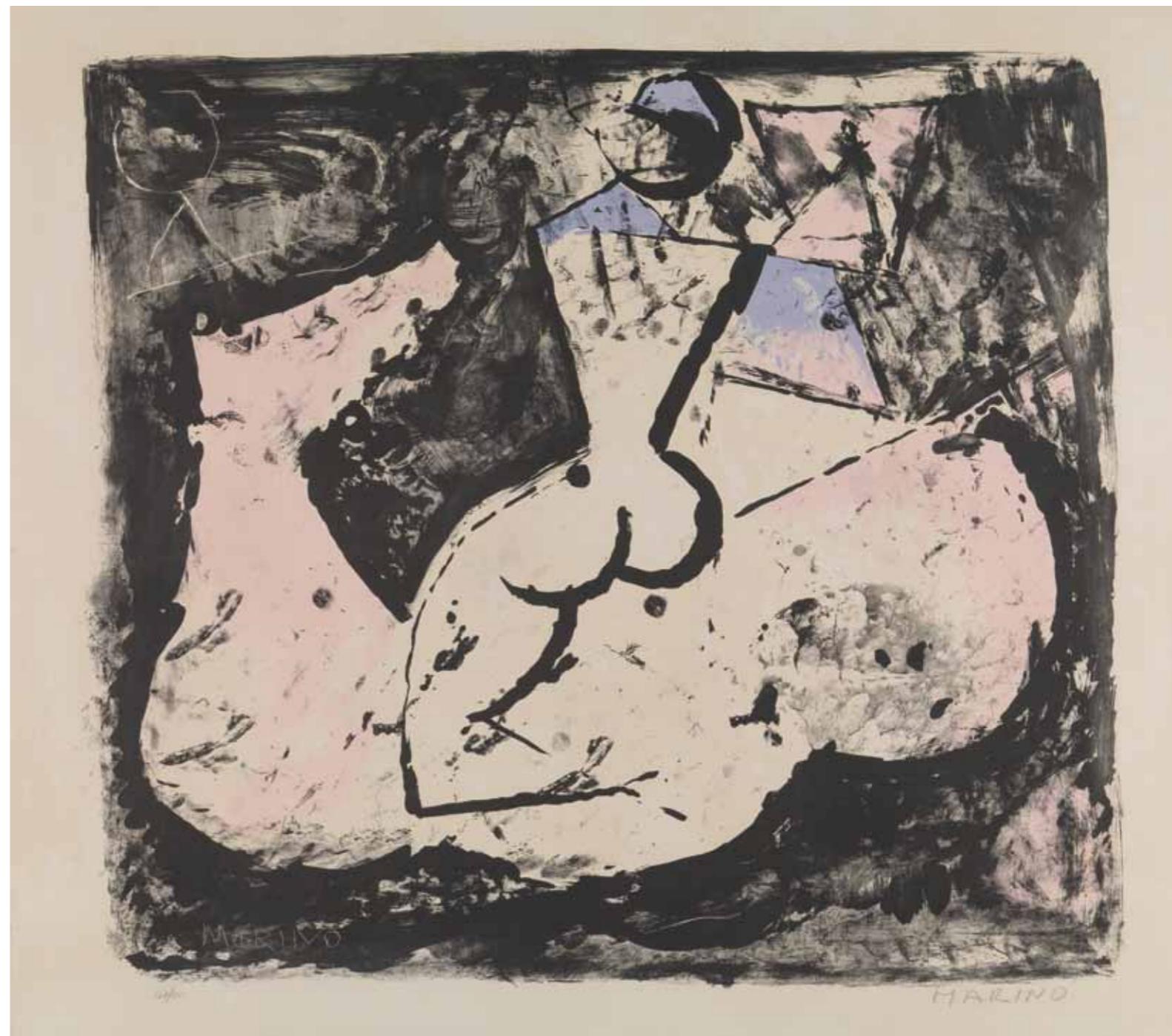
Spettacolo 1963
from the Suite 'Idea e Spazio', Plate X
Etching & aquatint
Edition 50/50
395 x 300 mm

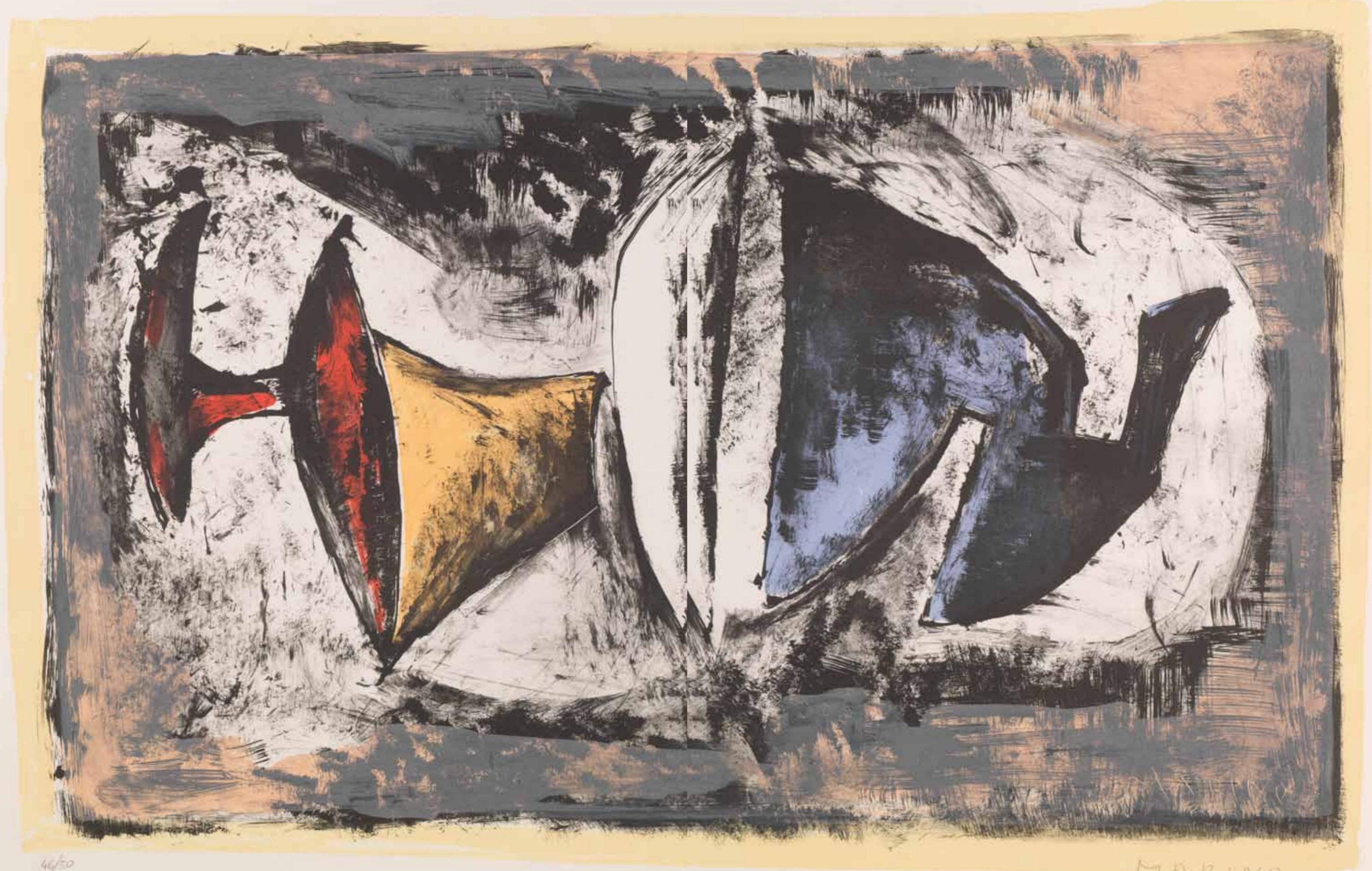




Il Grido 1965
Lithograph
Edition 22/50
540 x 800 mm

Cavallo e Cavaliere 1965
Lithograph
Edition 47/50
615 x 690 mm



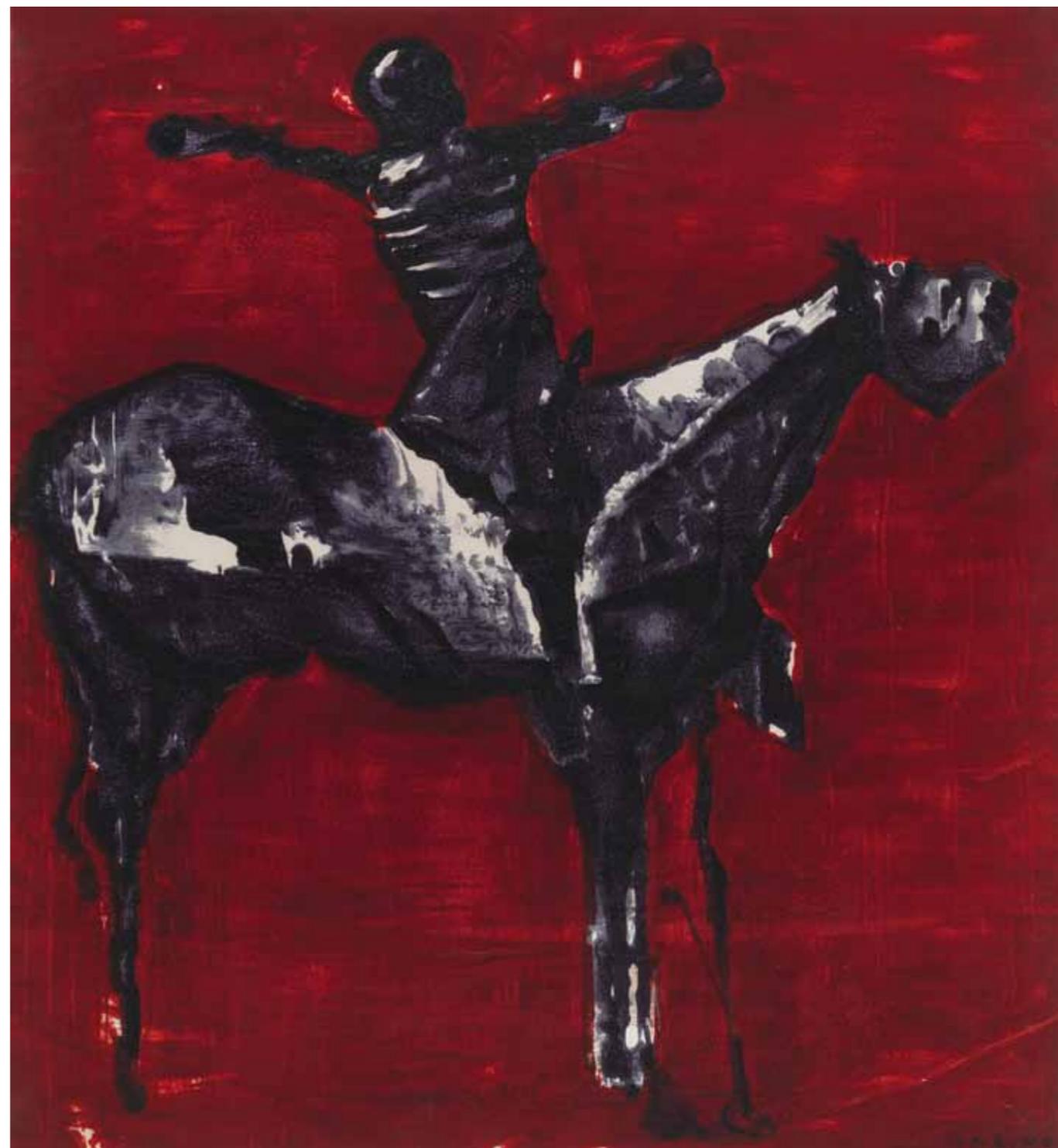


46/50

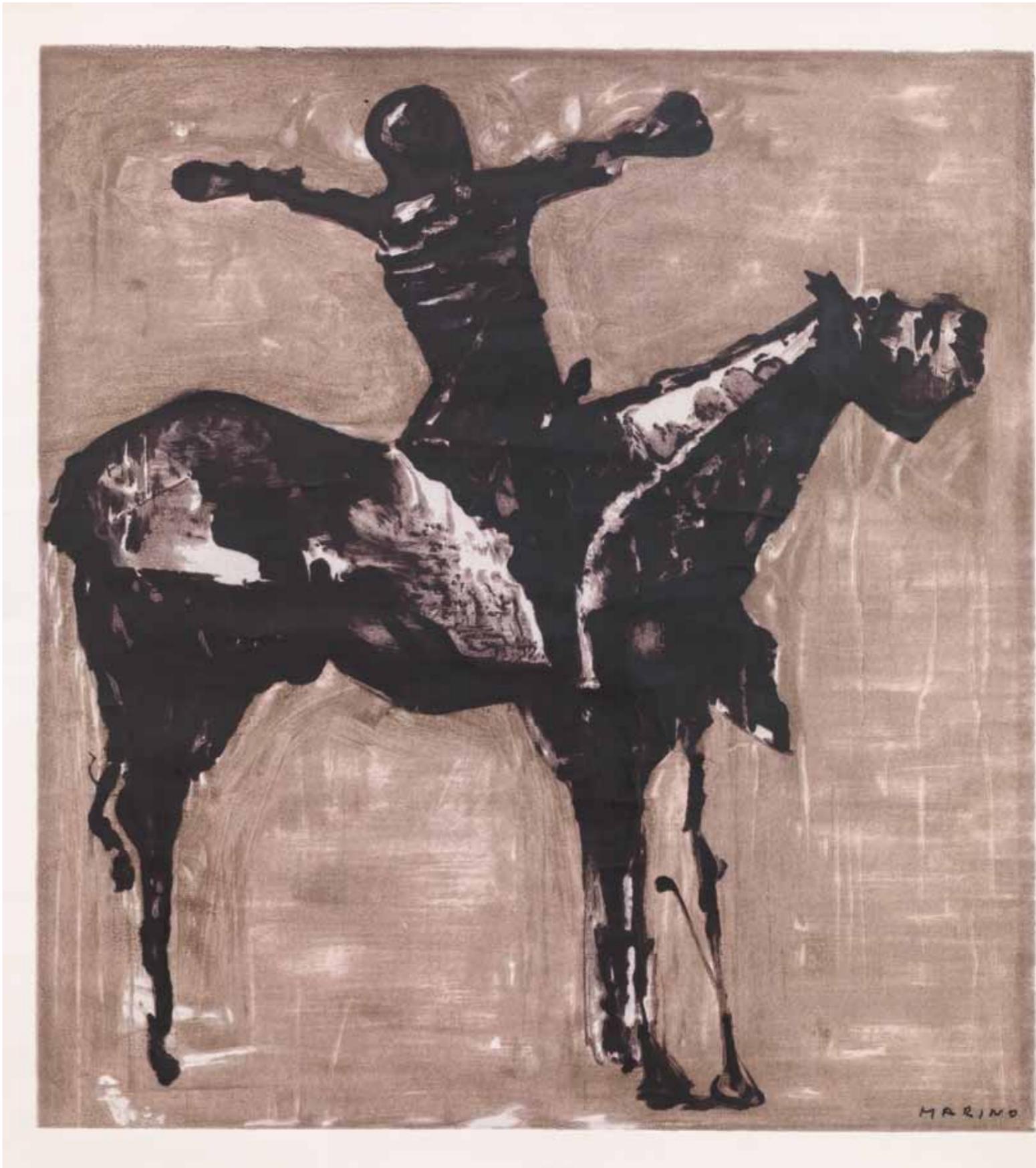
MARINO

Previous page:
Composizione di Elementi 1965
Lithograph
Edition 46/50
510 x 785 mm

Invocazione 1966
Screenprint
One of the unnumbered
edition of 100
700 x 660 mm



Invocazione 1966
Screenprint
CLXXIV/CCC
700 x 660 mm



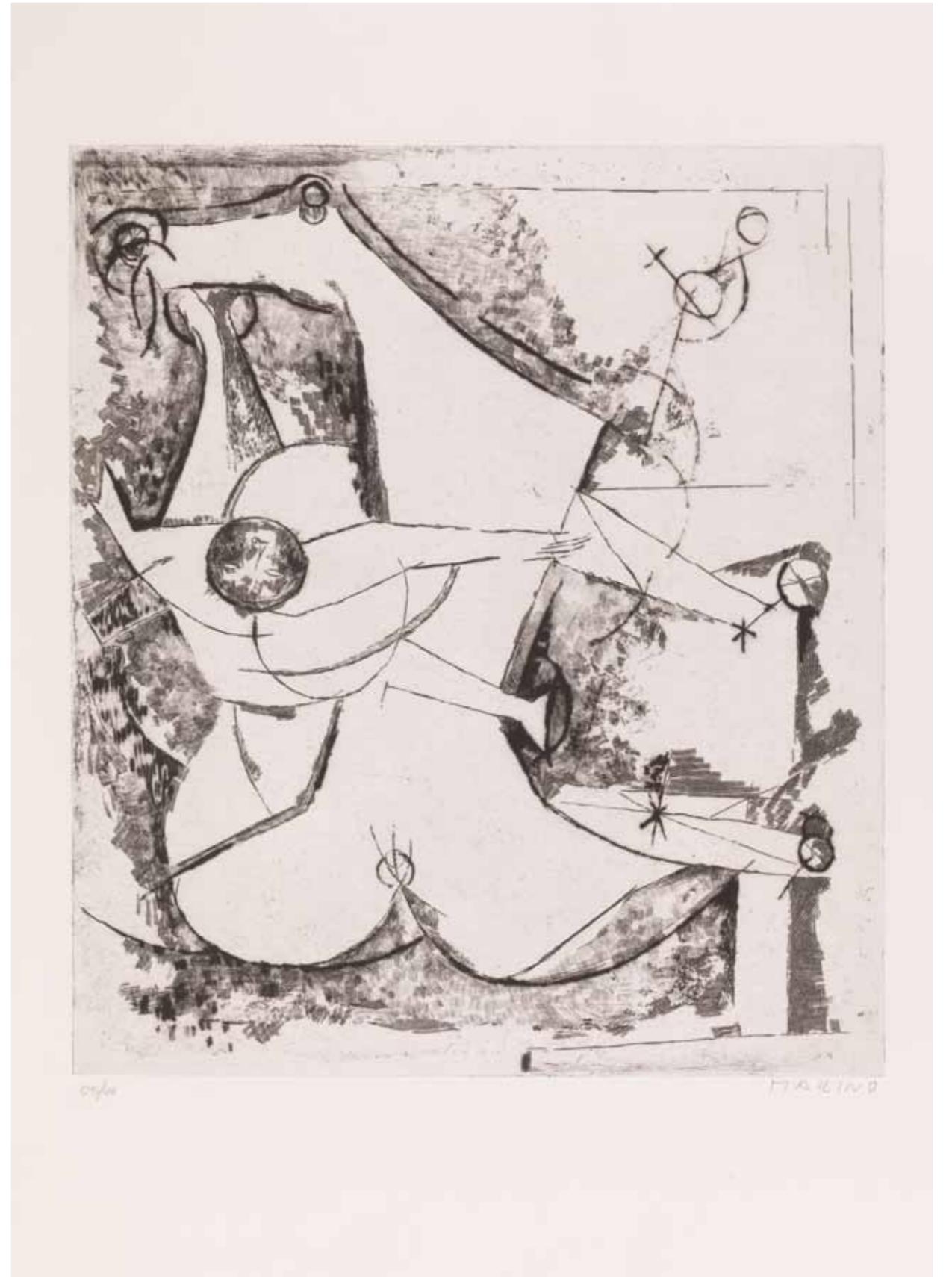
L'Idea del Cavaliere 1968
from the Portfolio 'Europäische Graphik VI', Plate VIII
Lithograph
Edition 2/65
522 x 392 mm



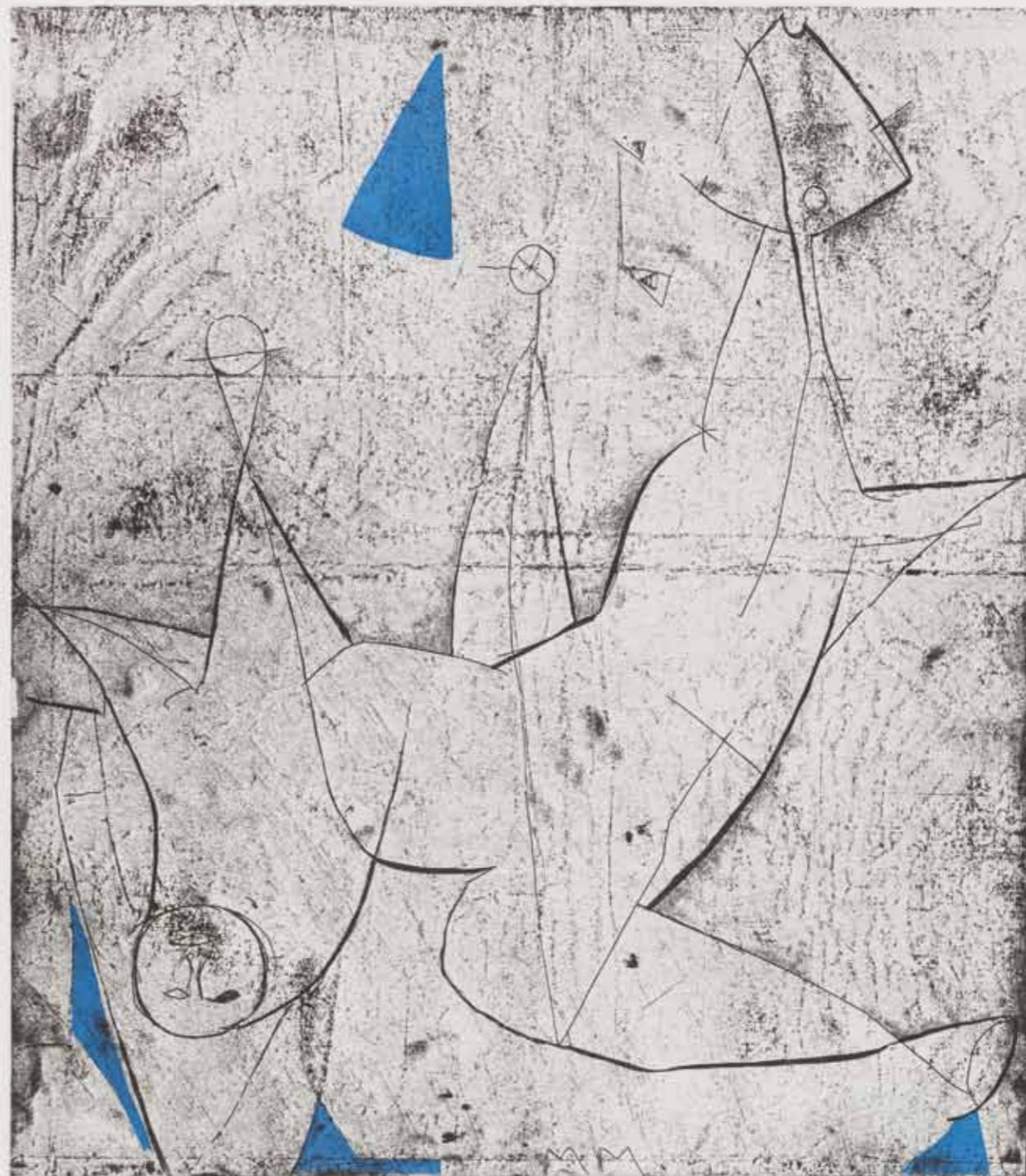


Guerriero 1968
Lithograph
One of 10 artist's proofs outside the
edition of 50
326 x 491 mm

Scomposizione 1970
from the Album 'Imagines', Plate III
Etching
Edition 25/40
417 x 366 mm



Miracolo 1970
Etching & aquatint
Edition 3/75
440 x 387 mm



3/75

MARINO

Giochi dal Fondo 1971
Etching
Edition 23/60
470 x 345 mm



Bizzarria 1975
Etching
Artist's Proof XII/XXV from the
Deluxe Edition
365 x 490 mm



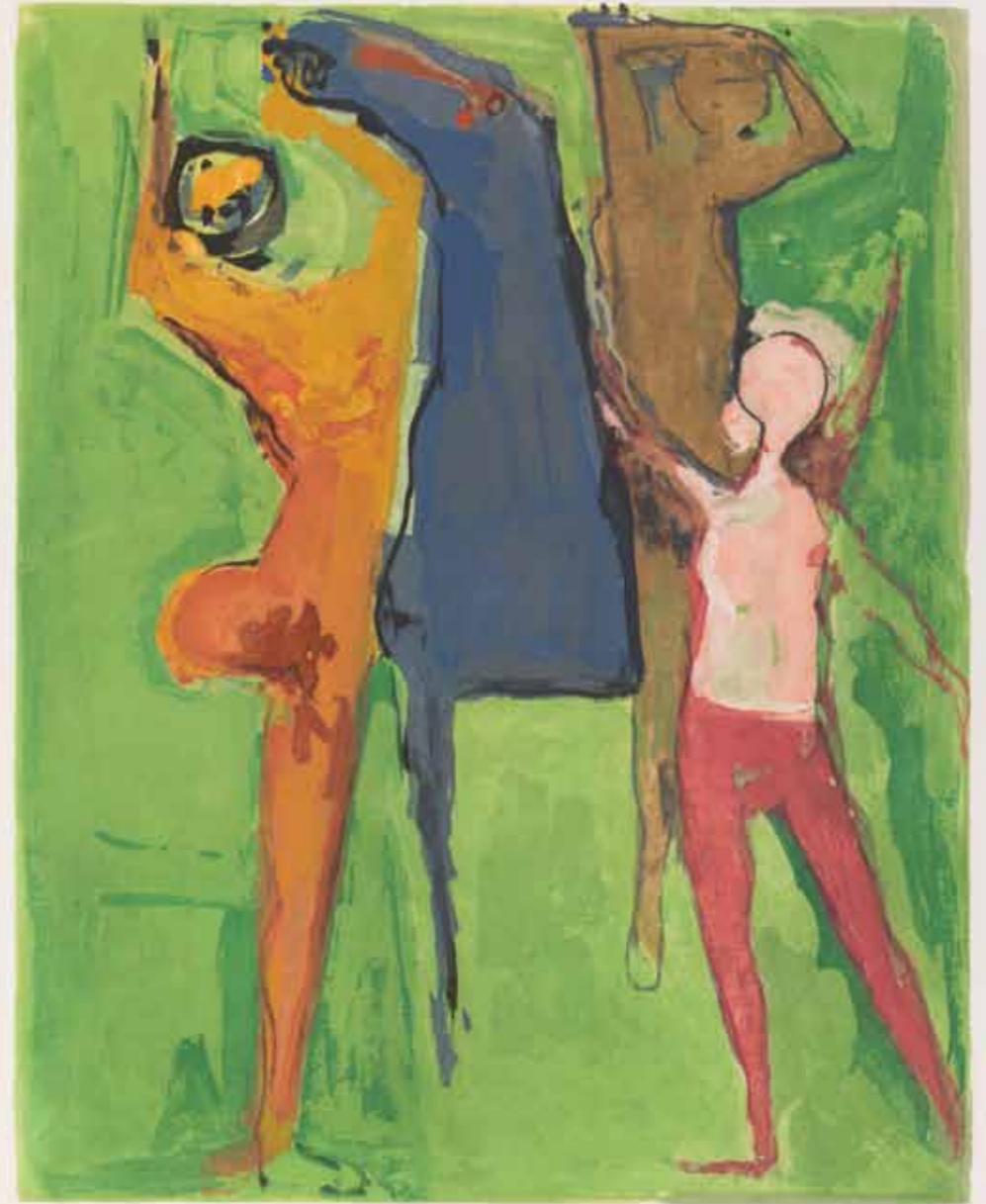
In Equilibrio 1975
from the Album 'Munchen', Plate III
Etching & aquatint
One of 12 artist's proofs outside the
edition of 75
540 x 415 mm



Marino from Shakespeare I, Plate II 1977
Etching, drypoint & aquatint
One of 20 artist's proofs outside the
edition of 75
495 x 395 mm

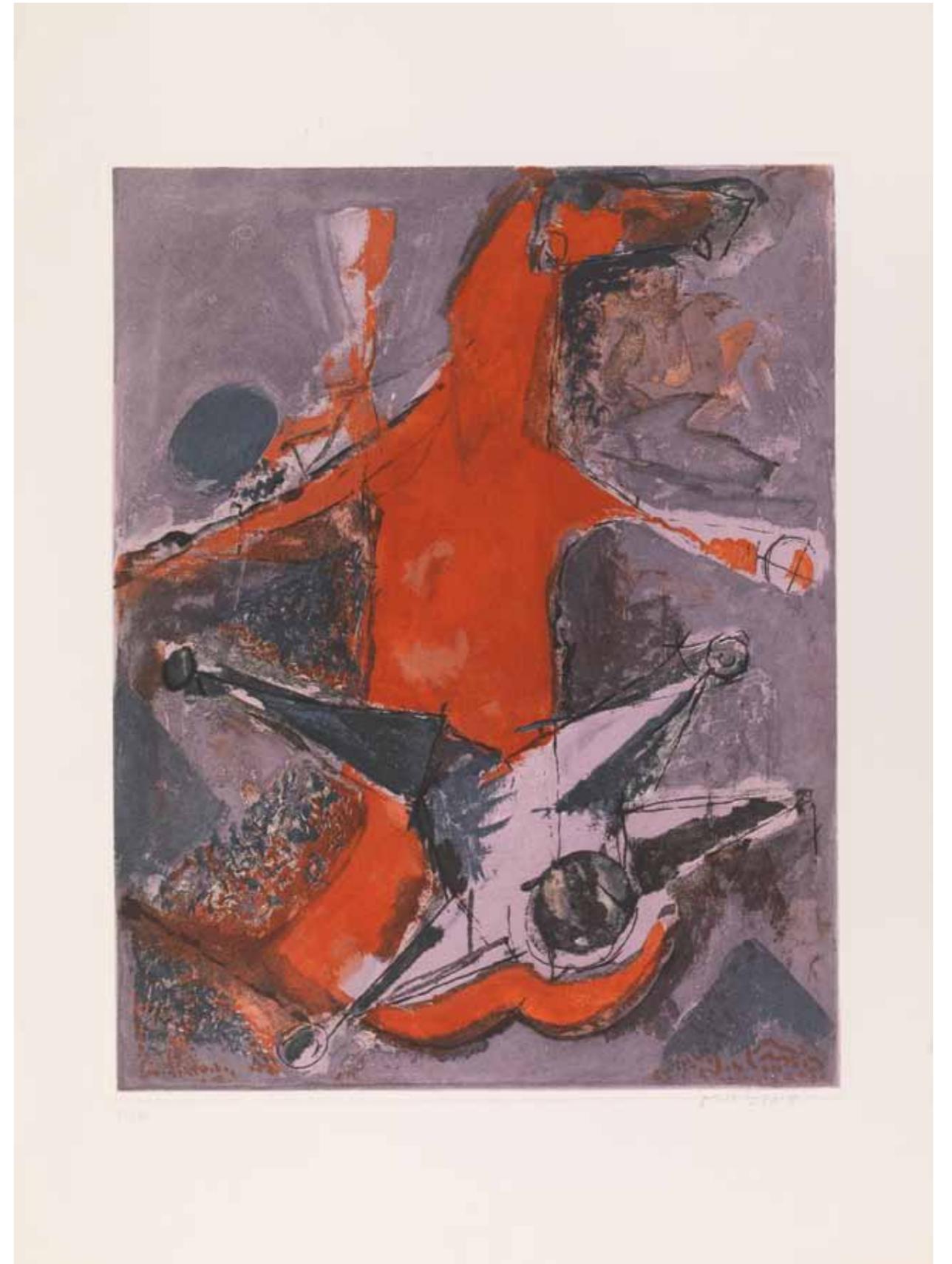


Marino from Shakespeare I, Plate VII 1977
Etching, drypoint & aquatint
Edition 16/75
475 x 382 mm



Marino

Miracolo 1978
Etching & aquatint
Edition 23/75
550 x 435 mm





Cavallo In Armonia 1978
Etching & aquatint
Edition 16/125
493 x 670 mm

16/25

MARINI

Gioco Colorato 1978
Etching & aquatint
One of 12 artist's proofs outside the
edition of 100
300 x 220 mm





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NB. Dimensions given (height x width) refer to the print area

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