

francesco arena
dieci minuti e un soffio

March 30 – June 23, 2021
opening March 30, 5 – 8:30 pm
Palazzo Borromeo - Piazza Borromeo 12, Milan

Numbers that take on form. If one tried to compress a large part of Francesco Arena's work in a simple and straightforward formula, this one would definitely fit. From a linguistic point of view his work can be read through the idea of development, as a personal "drift" of sculptural processes. At the same time the subjects of his practice often comprise formulas and numbers linked to facts and memorable events of the collective history intertwined with his personal life.

Francesco Arena's work always starts with a rule to follow, a decision that endures through the whole production process: Between March and May 2020 he created a series of ten sculptures using the same amount material for each of them, half a kilo of DAS; and the same amount of time, one minute per sculpture.

This is the starting point of the artwork *Le dita delle mani* (The fingers of the hands), installed in the rooms of Palazzo Borromeo on a dedicated pedestal, which occupies the center of the room and arises from the wall overlooking the courtyard.

Here, the sculpture *Blow Stone* is installed on another prosthesis extending from the wall. It is the portrait of a breath, the solidification of a very light moment through the weight and resistance of the stone. It consists of a block of stone 70 centimeters long, as much as the distance traveled by a piece of paper placed on the top of the artist's desk - who blew on it. The top of the block is mirror polished, smooth as a breath; the block is 152 centimeters high, as much as the distance of the artist's mouth from the ground; the base of the block is 25 centimeters wide and going up the block narrows up to 6 centimeters, the width of Francesco Arena's mouth.

Lightness and strength run after each other in these two works which, together, compose the exhibition *Dieci minuti e un soffio* (Ten minutes and a breath).