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Italian Artist Sells Invisible Sculpture for More Than \$18,000

BY SARA SANTORA ON 6/1/21 AT 2:53 PM EDT



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Anything can be a work of art, even nothing.

Italian artist Salvatore Garau recently auctioned an invisible sculpture for 15,000 euros (\$18,300). [According to as.com](https://www.as.com), the sculpture's initial price was set between 6,000 and 9,000 euros; however, the price was raised after several bids were placed.

Titled 'Io Sono' (Italian for "I am"), the 67-year-old artist's sculpture is "immaterial," meaning that the sculpture does not actually exist.

Though he's received much critique for the sale, Garau argues that his work of art isn't "nothing," but is instead a "vacuum."

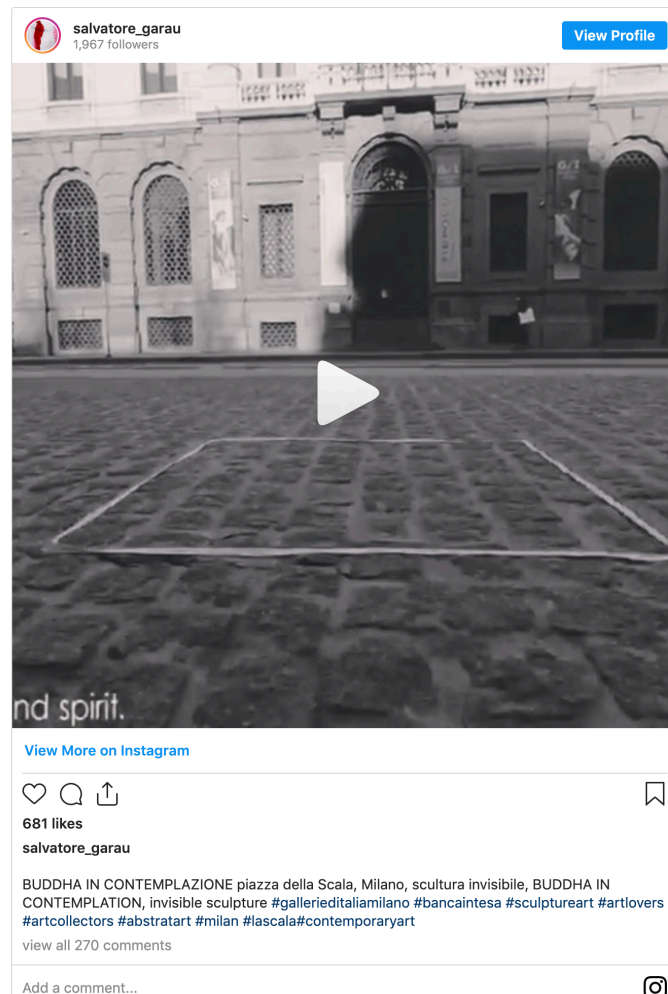
"The vacuum is nothing more than a space full of energy, and even if we empty it and there is nothing left, according to the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, that 'nothing' has a weight," Garau said of the statue according to as.com. "Therefore, it has energy that is condensed and transformed into particles, that is, into us."

Italy 24 News reported that per Garau's instructions, the sculpture must be displayed in a private home free from any obstruction, in an area that is about 5 ft. long by 5 ft. wide. Because the piece does not exist, there are no special lighting or climate requirements.

Multiple outlets report that the only tangible item the buyer will receive is a certificate of authentication that is both signed and stamped by Garau.

Though this is the first immaterial sculpture Garau has sold, it is not the first of its kind he has "created."

Last month, Garau displayed another immaterial sculpture titled, "Buddha in Contemplation," in the Piazza della Scala in Milan, near the entrance to the Gallerie d'Italia. Garau posted a video of the "statue" to his Instagram page.



The video shows the taped-off area where the work is located.

"Now it exists and will remain in this space forever," says the video. "You do not see it but it exists. It is made of air and spirit."

The sculpture is meant to "activate" the viewer's imagination, a power that, the artist says in the video, exists within everyone.

"When I decide to 'exhibit' an immaterial sculpture in a given space, that space will concentrate a certain amount and density of thoughts at a precise point, creating a sculpture that, from my title, will only take the most varied forms," Garau said of his sculptures, according to [as.com](#). "After all, don't we shape a God we've never seen?"



SALVATORE GARAU/INSTAGRAM SCREENSHOT