

Massimiliano Pelletti (Italian, born 1975)

Dawn

White Mexican Onyx

Height: 40.9" (104 cm)

Unique work

The figure—an antique draped bust, cut as a deliberate fragment—arises within white Mexican onyx whose translucency gives the surface a living, internal light. Instead of disguising irregularities, the artist retains them. Material rarity underwrites the piece's uniqueness. The quarry that produced this particular Mexican onyx has since flooded, and the variety—with its distinctive veins and crystalline pockets—no longer exists on the market.

Massimiliano Pelletti (Born 1975) is an Italian stone carver who lives and works in Pietrasanta, Italy, a hometown he shares with Michelangelo. From an early age, he began learning the techniques of marble carving in his grandfather Mario's family workshop. After graduating from the Art School in Pietrasanta, he went on to earn a degree in Philosophy from the University of Pisa—a discipline that not only fascinated him but also deeply influenced his creative work.

Pelletti's artistic career began in 2006 when he won the XII edition of the Biennale dei Giovani Artisti dell'Europa e del Mediterraneo, leading to international recognition, including exhibitions at the 54th Venice Biennale (Italian Pavilion) and the Alexandria Biennale. In 2014, he was a finalist for the International Sculpture Prize of the Henraux Foundation, curated by Philippe Daverio.

Between 2010 and 2018, he exhibited in various museums and public spaces, including Villa Croce and Sant'Agostino in Genoa, the Abbey of San Zeno in Pisa, the Temple of Hadrian in Rome, Castel Sant'Elmo in Naples, Sapienza University in Rome, the Luigi Pecci Museum of Contemporary Art in Prato, the Civic Museum Paolo Giovio in Como, Palazzo Riso - Museum of Contemporary Art of Sicily in Palermo, and the Jewish Museum in Bologna. His early sculptures predominantly featured marble, the quintessential material of his homeland, but he later expanded his choice of materials to include quartz, onyx, limestone, and other natural stones, often used in novel ways in sculpture. Pelletti approaches form with meticulous precision, innovating while preserving a strong connection to the traditions of sculpture.

In 2021, Pelletti's sculptures were shown alongside Antonio Canova in *Canova: Innocence and Sin* at the MART Museum, Trento, curated by Vittorio Sgarbi. Recent institutional highlights include *Versus* (2024–2025) at Rome's Palazzo Massimo, where he became the first contemporary artist to exhibit alongside antiquities like the Lancellotti Discobolus—a testament to his dialogue with art history.

Since joining Bowman Sculpture in 2023, Pelletti has become a key figure in the gallery's contemporary programme. He has exhibited with the gallery at Art SG Singapore and TEFAF Maastricht, the most rigorously vetted art fair in the world. In June 2025, he was selected for the Treasure House Fair Sculpture Walk in London, a curated presentation of monumental sculpture in the grounds of Royal Hospital Chelsea. In January 2026, Bowman Sculpture will present Pelletti's work at The Winter Show in New York, marking the artist's US debut with the gallery.

Alongside gallery success, Pelletti completes monumental commissions, including a 5-meter Carrara marble sculpture for Acapulco, and collaborates on sacred art for a contemporary church. He is exclusively represented in the UK by Bowman Sculpture.