

*Mobile Frontale*, 1958, painted wood, 198x160x80 cm

Container in painted wood, several doors, with shelves and rotating surfaces, absolutely functional. *Frontale* because frontality lay at the heart of Consagra's thought and works. He designed it in 1958 and constructed it, with his assistants, at the Rome studio in via Cassia. It was made for the beach house, nicknamed the outpost, at Tor San Lorenzo where he used to go in summer with his first wife, who was American, and their four children. His neighbour was Luchino Visconti and many artist friends were guests. During the day Consagra lived in total solitude and concentration, but in the evening he enjoyed company, sharing time, conversation and meals. He had a Spartan spirit and very clear ideas, hence this piece of furniture comprising three volumes the height of a person, set on a base in the form of a bench. It was not the only item of furniture that Consagra designed: models of a bookcase, table and container dating to the 70s were built in the 90s for his house and studio. Like his sculptures, the furniture consists of abstract but not geometric forms which allude to emotive movements, to a precise gestural nature. Since 1948 frontality had been a way of being for the artist: an open position in space which conceals nothing, which opens up to the other and converses.