



## La città proibita [The Forbidden City], 1990

Lithograph

50 x 70 cm

Edition of 150 in Arabic numerals plus 30 in Roman numerals

Marco Noire Editore for U.P.S.E., Turin

Visible against the background of an ancient view of the Italian city of Alessandria in Piedmont is the design by Claude-Nicolas Ledoux for a city with an elliptical plan in Chaux (1771-79), framed by a white passepartout. The French architect's "ideal city" serves as a core that generates four spherical bodies, distributed across planes that differ with respect to the passepartout: three cosmic spheres and, to the left, the spherical architecture of the project for the *Houses of the Guard* (ca. 1790) also by Ledoux. Through the title – evoking the Forbidden City of Peking, that is, the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties built from 1406 to 1420 – Ledoux's "ideal city" becomes an inaccessible place and an original model, of which the four spheres seem to disseminate a distant echo.



### Bibliographical references

*Impressions graphiques. L'opera grafica 1967-1992 di Giulio Paolini* (Turin: Marco Noire Editore, 1992), cat. no. 75.

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