



**ART CITY Bologna 2019 - ART WEEK**  
**25 January - 3 February**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Now in its 7th year, ART CITY Bologna is re-staging the highly successful format of 2018, with one special and 17 main projects. These site-specific cultural projects are a brilliant way for visitors to explore some of the most interesting artistic and research work encountered in Italy and at international level.**

**ART CITY Bologna showcases more than 100 events held by the major institutions and organisations present in the city, staging a true festival of modern art. The outcome of this wonderful shared achievement is a unique cultural programme that runs from the 25th of January with a non-stop series of events, inaugurations, performances, meetings and special initiatives.**

**Again this year, we have carefully considered our public, arranging extended opening hours and free, or reduced, entry for Arte Fiera ticket holders.**

**Saturday 2 February ART CITY White Night returns, with late opening until midnight.**

*Bologna, 22 January 2019* - **ART CITY Bologna**, now in its 7th year, is running **from the 1st to the 3rd of February 2019** with a programme of exhibitions, events and special initiatives promoted by the **City of Bologna** in collaboration with **BolognaFiera**, taking place in parallel with the international art fair **Arte Fiera**. Coordinated by the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art for Bologna Musei, for the second year running, **ART CITY Bologna** is headed by Lorenzo Balbi, artistic director of MAMbo - the Museum of Modern Art of Bologna. Under his leadership, we have been able to set in place a high profile cultural programme held alongside the international art fair that traditionally opens the annual artistic calendar in Italy. This programme goes well beyond a mere listing of fringe events, and is a festival of modern art in the true sense of the word, connecting and involving talents and driving forces, to put on an energetic and dynamic city-wide show. In 2019, ART CITY Bologna is supporting the process of renewal initiated at Arte Fiera with its appointment of Simone Menegoi as artistic director, and so confirms its own central role in helping to strengthen the position of Bologna as a reference point within the modern art scene, in Italy and internationally.

In the perspective of this joint commitment to build a centre actively involved in the production of modern art throughout the year, rather than only during the four days of the fair, this year ART CITY Bologna is **running for longer**. The three-day weekend has been expanded into a full **Art Week** and, **from the 25th of January**, offers a full calendar of inaugurations leading up to the opening of Arte Fiera on the 1st of February.

To retain our sense of continuity, the format we trialled successfully last time is replicated this year, with the main programme consisting of **one special event and 17 cultural projects** - a mix of exhibitions, installations and performances - that present a variety of expressions in modern artistic practice. All the events have in common three core elements: they are all monographic projects by established artists or young emerging talent, proposed by a curator and conceived for specific space, including unusual places that are not normally available for exhibitions open to the public.

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As part of ART CITY Bologna, a special section, **ART CITY Segnala**, includes **more than 100 events** selected by a committee consisting of the artistic directors of ART CITY Bologna and Arte Fiera, plus representatives from Bologna's Department of Culture and City Promotion. The many exciting events were suggested by the city's cultural operators, a wide-reaching group of public and private institutions, modern and contemporary art galleries (both those associated to Confcommercio ASCOM Bologna - the Confederation of Commerce, Tourism and Services of Bologna - and the independents), artist-run spaces, non-profit spaces and alternative locations.

Thinking about our visitors, all venues offer **extended opening hours** and **free**, or reduced, **entry** for Arte Fiera ticket holders.

Over the weekend 1st to 3rd of February, visitors have **free entry to the permanent collections** at all the museums in the **Bologna Museums** group, and can visit the exhibition at the Archaeological Museum, *Hokusai Hiroshige Oltre l'onda*, at a reduced price. Over these three days, **Mika Rottenberg's** temporary exhibition at MAMbo and that dedicated to **Goran Trbuljak** at Villa delle Rose are also **free for everyone**. Bologna museums pass-holders (with a "**Card Musei Metropolitani Bologna**") are entitled to a 50% discount to Arte Fiera plus all their regular benefits at the venues on the ART CITY Bologna circuit.

In terms of press, ART CITY Bologna has prepared and is circulating a free **tabloid-size publication** containing a fact sheet on all the projects in the *main programme* and a guide giving information about the events in the ART CITY Segnala category.

With this Art Week in mind and in view of promoting culture, **Bologna Welcome** is behind two projects. The first is a special card ("**Bologna Welcome Card**") that includes entry to the fair, the museums belonging to the Genus Bononiae circuit, the National Art Gallery, the permanent and temporary collections in all the public museums, as well as a two-hour guided tour of the old town, entrance to the Torre degli Asinelli and an exclusive visit to Casa Dalla. The second is the **Art Week Promenade**, a guide to finding one's way among the plethora of events and happenings taking place over the week.

MAMbo's Education Department has prepared a special itinerary for the younger public of 11 to 16 year-olds. **Walk on Art** is a tour of a few of the most curious and captivating exhibitions and installations promoted by ART CITY Bologna. With the help of a map and a specialised museum educator, the walk takes in five stops in five places full of history and romance, and the youngsters are shown how to see through the artists' eyes and exposed to their practice methods. The three-hour walk is held on Saturday 2nd of February at 15.00 and Sunday 3rd of February at 10.00, starting and terminating at MAMbo Modern Art Museum (Via Don Minzoni 14). The ticket costs €15, or €10 for those holding a museum pass card (Card Musei Metropolitani Bologna) or a ticket to Arte Fiera. Places must be reserved by 12.00 noon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of February, by email: mamboedu@comune.bologna.it or telephone: 051 6496628 (walks are held with a minimum of 6 participants and are limited to a maximum of 20).

Lastly, for one of the most anticipated events, **ART CITY White Night**, many venues on the ART CITY Bologna

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circuit, as well as art galleries, independent exhibition spaces, historical palaces and shops are open late (until midnight) on Saturday 2nd of February.

The full programme is published on [www.artcity.bologna.it](http://www.artcity.bologna.it) and [www.artefiera.it](http://www.artefiera.it).

### SPECIAL PROJECT

Underlining the close connection between the fair centre and the city, the special event for ART CITY Bologna 2019 will be held in the **Pavilion de l'Esprit Nouveau**, an iconic building and faithful copy of Le Corbusier's avant-garde vision, located on Piazza Costituzione, at the entrance to Arte Fiera. This is the venue for **Anthropometry**, performed by **les gens d'Uterpan**, a Parisian dance company formed in 1994 by two French choreographers, Annie Vigier and Franck Apertet. Their "moving architecture" is created through the bodies of dancers who insinuate themselves into the flow of visitors, projecting their movements through unexpected and unfamiliar actions.

By exploring the limitations of the human body and the restrictions faced when it is portrayed within an architectural space (free to move or bound by it), **les gens d'Uterpan** redefine dance as we know it, upturning the roles of dancer, choreographer and spectator and so re-interpret the concept of performing arts. Retracing the mental journey of Le Corbusier, who invented the notion of the "Modulor Man", a scale of proportions based upon the human form, which he then used as a guideline in his architecture, les gens d'Uterpan delegate their actions to others and invent their own vocabulary of movement and pauses to match the features of the architectural space in which they perform, with the purpose of engaging everyone in a collective whole.

### MAIN PROJECTS

The *main programme* of ART CITY Bologna brings together different generations and practice methods, young emerging artists and well-established international names.

The Sala delle Ciminiere of **MAMbo - Modern Art Museum** hosts **Mika Rottenberg's** first individual exhibition in an Italian museum. The Argentinian-born, New-York-based artist is known for her own particular register with its blend of sarcasm and the bizarre, showing ten of her most recent works in which she explores the contradictions and connections hidden behind global capitalist economies. Among the artwork on display are three new video installations, produced with the financial backing of MAMbo in collaboration with the Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art of London and the Kunsthau Bregenz.

As part of the greatly-awaited art night of Bologna, ART CITY White Night, **Saturday Night at MAMbo** is one event not to be missed: music at the museum from 20.00 with the **abstract-house set** by the American DJ and producer **Huerco S.** curated by the Locomotiv Club. This session is preceded by the DJ set played by **Messnr**, where tracks streamed from the internet are over-layered and manipulated, and followed by **Mayo Soulomon**, DJ and producer, founder and member of the collective Almost Black.

**Villa delle Rose** is hosting the largest retrospective organised in Italy for the Croat-born artist **Goran Trbuljak**, who has been working since the 1960s in the area of conceptual art and the New Art Practice movement. The exhibition entitled **Before and After Retrospective**, organised in collaboration with the Centre d'Art Contemporain of Geneva, presents a selection of some of his most important works covering

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the past 50 years, ranging from paintings, frottages, monochromes and monograms to photographs, films, books and documentation of his street actions. The artwork on display underlines Trbuljak's ability to appeal to his viewers at their very core with his sense of humour, something that distinguishes his work from that of many artists who, between the 1960s and 70s, worked on deconstructing artwork and introducing words and performance.

At the **MAST**, the solo photographic exhibition entitled **Thomas Struth: Nature & Politics** centres on exploring the world of science and technology. With his images, the artist moves in worlds that cannot normally be accessed, displaying a series of scientific and hyper-technological experimentations that involve new developments, research, measures and interventions that, at some unspecified time in the present or future, directly or in a mediated form, will irrupt into our world and change the course of our lives.

The **Oratory of San Filippo Neri** is the setting for the delicately suspended beauty of the exhibition **Collection de Nuages** by **Leandro Erlich**. Three clouds are held in imposing glass display cases taken from a cabinet of curiosities. Using these forms – so fragile yet so easy to recognise – the artist challenges the laws of physics, inviting the spectator into a dreamlike journey, a walk among whimsical shapes that change but are immobile.

The Belgium photographer and videomaker **Geert Goiris** is also holding his first individual exhibition in Italy. The exhibition **Terraforming Fantasies**, in the **Salone Banca di Bologna - Palazzo De' Toschi**, consists of a selection of photographic prints in different sizes, a slide show and a multichannel video installation, presented in an ambitious and innovative installation conceived for the occasion by the architect Kris Kimpe, who works regularly with the artist. This show is linked to the Goiris's solo exhibition at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Antwerp, held in November/December 2018.

The project **pulsazione#1 ECO** by **Emilio Fantin** is running in the **Integratore**, a labyrinth composed of metallic veils installed in the rooms of the rehabilitation centre **Casa dei Risvegli "Luca De Nigris"**. Listeners sit on high chairs hidden in niches of non-woven fabric designed to help them concentrate on what they are hearing. The emotional charge and aura emanating from the Casa dei Risvegli and its guests heightens the evocative power of the voices of those telling stories from within the Integratore.

With his project **Stone of Madness**, **Christian Fogarolli** connects with the collections at the Museum of **Palazzo Poggi**, examining the approaches to mental health employed over the centuries until today, from old wives' tales to the current pharmaceutical preparations. The work **Leaven** is shown in the Sala di Camilla, where a glass display case contains many manuals on diagnostics and statistics linked to mental disorders from 1952 to 2015, put together and purchased by the artist. The title symbolises the exponential growth of declared psychic disorders. Fogarolli is also showing his site-specific work **Allégorie de la Folie** in the Sala dei Paesaggi, an installation based on ancient popular beliefs and traditional mediaeval remedies.

The entrance hall of the **School of Engineering and Architecture of the University of Bologna** hosts the first showing of **SynAsTex Korrektur**, the most recent work by **Florian Hecker**, one of the major exponents of contemporary computational music. The work proposed in this new "perception theatre" engenders a dialogue between the severe rationalism of the university building's architecture - which emphasises the balance between vertical thrust and structural solidity - and the German artist's electronic music - which can draw forth material presences from immaterial numbers, creating sound sculptures that, through the spectators' ability to hear, appear as fluctuating manifestations.

For their first show in Bologna, the artistic collective **Alterazioni Video** are presenting their multi-venue

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project entitled **FORZA UOVA** - split between the **Voxel** site and the **Cinema Medica Palace**, in collaboration with Pop Up Cinema - with video installations, works and props from their most recent TurboFilms, a cinematographic genre that is mid-way between spaghetti westerns and the neo-realism of YouTube. The programme is completed by a series of meetings and talks with the artists: Friday 1st of February, a party at Voxel; Saturday 2nd of February, an event at the Cinema Medica Palace; and Sunday 3rd of February, a selection of TurboFilms with an introduction by Lorenzo Balbi at the Cinema Medica Palace.

After showing at the Arch of Augustus of Rimini, and the courtyard of the Italian Embassy of Berlin, the travelling public art installation conceived by **Patrick Tuttofuoco** is stopping off in Bologna. The luminous mobile sculpture, **ZERO (Weak Fist)**, is on display at **Porta San Donato**, the gateway to the university quarter and the many multi-cultural flows that trace and highlight the international facet of Bologna and its drive for inclusion. As artwork that changes, with its mediating spirit visible to all throughout the night, **ZERO (Weak Fist)** searches for origins, acquires new meanings and expands the reach of its message to create common cultural heritage. Tuttofuoco also takes centre stage in an educational programme of workshops and meetings with students at the Academy of Art of Bologna.

In Palazzo D'Accursio, at the heart of the old town of Bologna, **Massimo Kaufmann** presents the six large-sized canvasses that make up **Mille Fiate** in the Sala Farnese, a monumental second-floor hall with its 17th century frieze painted by the school of Carlo Cignani, illustrating several episodes from the city's history. From literature to painting, in his research, Massimo Kaufmann hits the sweet spot at the boundary between senses, like a modern-day blind seer Tiresias. This abstract story plays out on coloured canvass, where the eye can perceive it and detect the sub-currents.

A new exhibition space for temporary exhibitions and events is opening in the cellars of **Palazzo Bentivoglio**, another palace in the heart of the city and near the renowned university quarter. The inaugural exhibition is **Bologna Portraits** by **Jacopo Benassi**, narrating the special relationship between the artist and the urban setting of this city through a selection of photographs taken during the time the artist has spent in Bologna over the past few years. The central body of work consists of a series of portraits of people with a connection to the city. The faces of these artists, writers, entrepreneurs, business people, baristas, stylists, musicians, cultural promoters and actors together form a mosaic, creating a single large portrait of the Bologna of today.

Another project closely linked to the city's identity, in this case, its urban landscape, is the photographic exhibition by **Carlo Valsecchi** entitled **Gasometro M.A.N. n. 3**, on display in the Salone degli Incamminati of the **National Art Gallery of Bologna**. Alongside the mediaeval towers, another giant stands out against the city's skyline, looming between Porta San Donato and Porta Mascarella. The 50 m high Gasometro Man n. 3 with its 27 m diameter was built in 1927 and used until 1984 to store gas for city use. Carlo Valsecchi photographed it with the eye of someone who sees buildings as living things, not ghosts or inert archaeological relics of an industrial past, but organisms in continuous transformation.

The **Court of Honour of Palazzo d'Accursio** hosts a wordplay between modern languages, welcoming **Uni-Verso**, a large sculpture made of twisted stainless steel struts by **Eduard Habicher**. Coloured bright red to highlight its great strength and radiating energy, this large semi-sphere shaped structure outlines a space that encloses visitors delicately and softly, while remaining open and flowing.

The British artist **Rob Chavasse** presents **Shutter**, a site-specific work prepared for the exhibition space, **TRIPLA**. The exhibition consists of a full-sized mural painted directly onto the walls using an ink-spray pistol.

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Founded in 2016, TRIPLA has hosted individual and group exhibitions of Italian and international artists, proposing an original format where display cases are illuminated 24/7 and so are always visible to the public. With two years in the planning, Chavasse's project marks the end of the space, creating an ephemeral artwork that evokes the recent past and the possible future of this non-profit gallery.

Finally, in the wonderful spaces of the **Cinema Modernissimo**, which will soon be returned to the city, the Cineteca di Bologna Foundation is hosting the site-specific sound installation entitled **Again New. Before the Film** by the sound and visual artist **Michele Spanghero**, whose work is defined by essential aesthetics and a multidisciplinary approach. With his work at the Modernissimo, Spanghero is trying to stimulate and engage the public by slightly shifting their perception. Silence, acoustic resonance and imperceptible variations in sound within space and matter are the nucleus of the artist's work in the field of sound. His attention lingers on the fragments and marginal elements of architecture, recording simple geometries of light, very far from pre-defined over-structures and information.

In the section **ART CITY Cinema**, the Foundation Cineteca di Bologna is once again exploring the many possible connections and overlapping between art and cinema, with its series of films at the Cinema Lumière.

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## TECHNICAL SHEET

### **ART CITY Bologna is promoted by:**

Comune di Bologna in collaboration with BolognaFiere

### **On the occasion of:**

Arte Fiera

### **Artistic Director:**

Lorenzo Balbi

### **With the coordination of:**

Istituzione Bologna Musei | Villa delle Rose - Museums of Bologna | Villa delle Rose

### **Period:**

Friday 1 - Saturday 2 - Sunday 3 February 2019

### **Websites:**

[www.artcity.bologna.it](http://www.artcity.bologna.it) | [www.artefiera.it](http://www.artefiera.it)

### **Hashtag:**

#ArtCityBologna

### **Press office:**

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