



fiera internazionale d'arte
moderna e contemporanea

international exhibition
of modern and contemporary art

Bologna
01/04.02.2019

COURTESY EMILIA-ROMAGNA

The major new feature at the fringe programme for Arte Fiera is ***Solo figura e sfondo***, an exhibition based on the Emilia-Romagna region's public and private institutional collections of modern and contemporary art. The exhibition will be the first of a succession of events created by Simone Menegoi and entitled COURTESY EMILIA-ROMAGNA: a series of temporary exhibitions set up within Arte Fiera beginning from the 2019 edition, which aims to celebrate the region's collections – the series will form a “dispersed museum” and its curator and theme will change each year. For the first edition, curated by Davide Ferri, the concept explores the theme at the heart of this initiative: Emilia-Romagna as a land of art, in which individuality and excellence are viewed as part of a fabric, a network, a common landscape.

SOLO FIGURA E SFONDO

Curated by di Davide Ferri

COURTESY EMILIA-ROMAGNA, 2019 edition

Arte Fiera, Pavilion 26

“All life is figure and ground,” wrote Samuel Beckett in *Murphy*.

This quotation gives an indication of the direction in which the exhibition will develop, prioritising the focus on a theme that is central to art history: the relationship between figure and background, not only in formal terms, but above all the lyrical and atmospheric connotations.

At the centre of the exhibition is the experience of the subject in a given place and in the landscape, interpreted in the light of suggestions that also originate in literature, cinema, music and photography, with particular attention to the lines of research that, through authors and photographers such as Pier Vittorio Tondelli, Gianni Celati and Luigi Ghirri (to name some examples). The aforementioned outlined a kind of mythology relating to the ancient Roman road that traverses the region, the Via Emilia, populating it with figures that move on a background that can become many things: an atmospheric given, a community of people, but also a rather abstract and indefinable space, from which the figure emanates and refracts.

The exhibition takes a look at various generations of artists – from great masters to minor authors, all of whom have been rediscovered in the region's collections – and different styles and artistic languages, enabling a synchronic development of free associations and new juxtapositions, in such a way as to make the exhibition a construction of a sense around the relationship between figure and background.

The project develops along directions of research that translate into sections, but with the porous borders, which at the exhibition become threads of a possible interwoven narrative: the relationship between figure and background as a reflection on the parameters of identity, and on the dilution of identity in the atmosphere; the background as a combination, political dimension and human landscape; the relationship between figure and background as a shimmering and unstable dialogue,



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between planes and layers of an image (in sculpture and in abstract painting); the background as a material limitation or an acoustic feature – background noise.

Davide Ferri

INSTITUTIONS AND ARTISTS INVOLVED, 2019 edition

The Fondazione MAST Collection, Bologna: Olivo Barbieri; **the Fondazione Tito Balestra ONLUS Collection, Longiano (FC):** Luigi Bartolini, Mino Maccari, Marino Marini; **the Maramotti Collection, Reggio Emilia:** Mario Diacono, Margherita Manzelli, Claudio Parmiggiani, Alessandro Pessoli, Phoebe Unwin, Michael van Ofen; **the Massimo Orsini Collection, MUTINA FOR ART, Fiorano (MO):** Francesco Gennari, Franco Vimercati, Franz E. Walther; **the Museo Carlo Zauli Collection, Faenza:** Yuri Ancarani, Salvatore Arancio, Sueharu Fukami, Jonathan Monk, Carlo Zauli, Italo Zuffi; **the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna Collection of Art and History:** Giovanni Ciangottini, Vittorio Mascaldi, Luigi Ontani, Marco Tirelli; **the Twentieth Century Collection, Pinacoteca civica di Forlì:** Giacomo Balla, Afro Basaldella; **the DO UT DO Committee, Bologna:** Flavio Favelli; **CSAC, University of Parma:** Luigi Ghirri, Franco Guerzoni, Nino Migliori; **Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna:** Federico Pietrella; **Fondazione Lercaro - Raccolta Lercaro, Bologna:** Felice Casorati, Paula Luttringer; **Fondazione Massimo e Sonia Cirulli, San Lazzaro di Savena (BO):** Studio Boggeri, Anselmo Bucci, Erberto Carboni, Fortunato Depero, Marcello Jori, Giovanni Korompay, Giò Ponti, Mario Ridolfi, Mario Sironi, Ettore Sottsass; **Fondazione Modena Art Visive:** Carla Accardi, Marina Ballo Charmet, Franco Fontana, Luigi Ghirri, Guido Guidi, Renato Mambor, Alessandra Spranzi, Wolfgang Tillmans, Claudio Verna, Minor White; **Modern and Contemporary Drawing and Prints section – Bologna Academy of Fine Arts:** Daniela Comani, Concetto Pozzati, Nicola Samori; **the Contemporary Art Gallery “Vero Stoppioni” di S. Sofia (FC):** Piero Manai, Mattia Moreni; **the Modern and the Gallery of Contemporary and Modern Art, Ferrara:** Michelangelo Antonioni, Filippo De Pisis, Titina Maselli; **Istituzione Bologna Musei I MAMbo – Museum of Modern Art, Bologna:** Dadamaino, Jeroen De Rijke / Willem De Rooij, Piero Guccione, Franco Guerzoni, Virgilio Guidi, Renato Guttuso, Luigi Ontani; **Istituzione Bologna Musei I Museo Morandi:** Giorgio Morandi; **MAR – Museum of Art of the city of Ravenna:** Vasco Bendini, Marco Neri, Luigi Ontani; **MIC, International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza:** Alessandro Pessoli; **Municipal Museums, Rimini:** Vincenzo Castella, Guido Guidi, Manfred Willman; **XING, Bologna:** Alice Guareschi.



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DAVIDE FERRI

Born in Forlì in 1974 and now living in Rome, Davide Ferri is an independent curator. He lectures in Aesthetics at the Rimini Academy of Fine Arts (LABA) and the Staging of Exhibition Spaces and the Ergonomics of Exhibitions at the Academy of Fine Art in Bologna.

Since 2012 he has curated the Art Section at the Ipercorpo Theatre Festival. He has been a consultant at the San Domenico/Palazzo Romagnoli Museums in Forlì since 2015, advising on the planning and staging of contemporary art exhibitions. From 2001 to 2006 he was the artistic director of the Museum of Contemporary Furniture in Russi (Ravenna).

In recent years he has curated various exhibitions and projects in contemporary art galleries and museums. These have included:

Paolo Icaro - Unending Incipit (with Saverio Verini), Pinacoteca Comunale di Città di Castello (2018); *Material Life*, The Goma Gallery, Madrid (2017); *Teoria ingenua degli insiemi* (with Cecilia Canziani), Galleria P420, Bologna (2016); *Afro. Pensieri nella*, Musei San Domenico Museums, Forlì (2015); *Franco Guerzoni - Nessun luogo, da nessuna parte. Viaggi randagi con Luigi Ghirri*, Milan Triennale (2014); *La figurazione inevitabile. Una scena della pittura oggi*, The Luigi Pecci Centre for Contemporary Art, Prato (2013); *Sentimiento Nuevo. Incontri sulla nuova critica e scrittura d'arte in Italia* (with Antonio Grulli), MAMbo, Bologna (2011).



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