



fiera internazionale d'arte  
moderna e contemporanea

international exhibition of  
modern and contemporary art

2/4.02.2024  
Bologna

## Arte Fiera

**Bologna, 2-4 February 2024**  
**Preview 1 February 2024**

### Arte Fiera celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday

It all began back in **1974**, when BolognaFiere decided to present (along with what was then called the Trade Fair) a small section devoted to modern and contemporary art. A brilliant idea and an immediate success. The first edition had only ten galleries; a year later, there were 200. **1974-2024**: an anniversary that no other Italian art fair has yet reached and that only two other fairs in Europe have exceeded.

Arte Fiera is celebrating its 50th anniversary by focusing on its origins: the first, pioneering editions that in just a few years made it an international event. In 2024, the public program will take a look at events, personalities, works, and publications from those years, starting from the fair's foundation in 1974. By doing this, it will also celebrate the '70s in Bologna, an extraordinary decade in which the city was at the vanguard (not only in Italy) in visual arts, design, architecture, and in conceiving new forms of relations among art, politics, and society. The creation of Arte Fiera was both a cause and an effect of those years, arising from the city's innovative and bold environment and immediately giving it an essential stimulus.

### Opus Novum #6: Luisa Lambri

Every year since 2019, Arte Fiera has commissioned a well-known Italian artist to create a new work to be presented at the Fair. So far, Opus Novum (as the series is named) has commissioned works from Flavio Favelli (2019), Eva Marisaldi (2020), Stefano Arienti (2021), Liliana Moro (2022), and Alberto Garutti (2023).

In 2024, the commission will go to **Luisa Lambri**, an internationally famous Italian artist whose medium is the photographic image. Known mainly for her images of modernist architecture, so essential that they approach abstraction, Lambri does not photograph architecture any more than Morandi painted cups and bottles: just like the Bolognese master, she investigates relations among space and light by means of an engrossing series of variations.



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For Arte Fiera, Lambri focuses on an important but almost unknown building: Alvar Aalto's Church of Santa Maria Assunta (Assumption of Mary) in Riola, in the Bolognese Apennines. Designed in 1966 and built 10 years later, this is the Finnish architect's only work in Italy. Lambri's images, concentrating on a few isolated details of the church, will be exhibited in another jewel of modernist architecture in Bologna: the Padiglione de L'Esprit Nouveau (1977), the replica of a temporary architectural work by Le Corbusier from 1925. Built to honor the French master, it is so faithful to the original that it has been added to the Le Corbusier Foundation's heritage list. Lambri's project therefore unites two superb examples of Bologna's architecture from the '70s - two outstanding instances of the city's creativity in those years.

## Arte Fiera and BPER

Arte Fiera is proud to announce that **BPER Banca** has strengthened its commitment to the event and has **become the Main Partner** of Arte Fiera 2024.

With this important step, the primary fair for art and Italian galleries is now linked to a national bank with strong ties in its home territory: a bank that actively promotes and supports art and culture, convinced that they are essential for both local development and social inclusion.

Arte Fiera 2024: the past, present, and future of a unique fair.

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