



## PRESS RELEASE

### ART CITY Bologna 2022

7–15 May 2022

Bologna, 4 May 2022—**The tenth ART CITY Bologna takes place from 7–15 May 2022.**

This cultural alliance project results from the partnership between the **Municipality of Bologna** and **BolognaFiere** to support the annual **Arte Fiera** and offer an original exploration of the city's museums and art venues.

After the decision to postpone the traditional end-of-January edition of Italy's longest-running art fair to the spring season due to the pandemic, **ART CITY Bologna** has bolstered the collaborative spirit established with the fair, moving to May for the second consecutive year after the well-received experimental version organized in 2021.

Coordinated by the **Istituzione Bologna Musei's Modern and Contemporary Art Area** under the artistic direction of **Lorenzo Balbi**, the program offers a rich calendar of openings and extraordinary opportunities beginning **Saturday, 7 May**, and continuing until the following weekend, in conjunction with Arte Fiera, scheduled **for 13–15 May 2022.**

The core features a *Main Program* divided into a special project and a **series of curatorial projects** from among the most diverse contemporary works of art. The calendar also offers invitations from **museums, foundations, institutional venues, Associazione Gallerie Bologna–Confcommercio Ascom Bologna, exhibition settings, and independent galleries in the city.**

ART CITY Bologna 2022 starts from a necessary redefinition of the ways of sharing public space and from an observation of the changing dynamics of interpersonal relationships in a context that continues to be shaped by the results of the pandemic crisis and which must inevitably deal with the conflict in Ukraine. The works extend into actions, exhibitions, and site-specific installations that inhabit customary and unusual locations, generating narratives and new interactions.

#### Partners

ART CITY Bologna 2022 would like to thank the following for their support: **Gruppo Hera, Gruppo Unipol, CUBO Museo d'impresa del Gruppo Unipol, Associazione Gallerie Bologna - Confcommercio Ascom Bologna.**

#### Places

One of ART CITY Bologna's most distinctive features has always been the intention to bring **places not often dedicated to art** to the attention of a large audience—among the most interesting, unknown, or rarely accessible in the city—rediscovered through works by the artists invited to document their specific identities.

This year the contexts of action again range among the most diverse typologies: from the

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incomparable locations in the city symbolic of its history (e.g., **Piazza Maggiore, Palazzo d'Accursio, and the Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna**) to the eminent palaces that are now cultural venues (e.g., **Palazzo De' Toschi** with the Banca di Bologna's conference room, **Alchemilla in Palazzo Vizzani**, the **Oratorio di San Filippo Neri** owned by the Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna, **Palazzo Bentivoglio** and the **Musical Research Center-Teatro San Leonardo**, priceless architectural treasures (e.g., **the Padiglione de l'Esprit Nouveau** designed by Le Corbusier), and lastly, the leafy setting of the **Orto Botanico ed Erbario** located in the heart of the University Museum System.

The 2022 event is also characterized by a broader, polycentric dimension that extends the extensive constellation of events towards Bologna's metropolitan area to include **Calderara di Reno, Pianoro, Pieve di Cento, Riola di Vergato, San Giorgio di Piano, San Lazzaro di Savena, San Pietro in Casale, Valsamoggia** as well as the Municipality of Cento in the province of Ferrara.

### Visual identity

Like in 2021, the conception and development of this year's visual identity were entrusted to the artists **Filippo Tappi** and **Marco Casella**. Starting with Peter Pan, last year's star and visitors' guide, this year's star is an astronomical phenomenon of a body that quakes, fades, and increases.

Bologna is the background for the 2022 event—a **galaxy** where everything happens: an agglomerate of iridescent planets, pulsating stars, dark matter, and dust, which dance undisturbed to the cosmic rhythm. In this nebula, myriad events make contact, overlap, merge, echo, and multiply. The city's sounds, its streets, arcades, hills, and people that experience it form the background noise of a galaxy that, during ART CITY, is crisscrossed by unidentified objects, anomalous glows, atomic worlds that appear and disappear, unheard-of sounds, rhythms, and signals that traverse the city for some hours to then disappear.

The star has been reinterpreted in various shapes and colors that change in frequency, accompanying an explosion, an evanescent glow, an engine for change.

A living, organic being thus follows that reaffirms the variety in the world of signs, a being with softer lines bringing with it the muffled sounds of the sea.

The last element of visual identity is the trajectory of a journey at light speed, where signs begin to multiply and blend into the background.

### The artistic idea of the Main Program

Since the 2018 event, ART CITY Bologna's **special project** has been to invite the public to experience veritable living works of art. Thus, they continue this ambitious adventure in producing and presenting works by the most thought-provoking and significant international artists, invited to imagine works for Bologna's most iconic locations.

**Tino Sehgal**, one of the most radical artists in recent years, was invited to the 2022 event. He won the Leone d'Oro at the Venice International Art Exhibition in 2013. His works are authentic living sculptures, choreographies of people in motion that generate unusual, sometimes surreal situations that provoke the public. Lorenzo Balbi has curated the work, which is promoted by Istituzione Bologna Musei | MAMbo with the support of the Unipol

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Group and in collaboration with Bologna Welcome. The artist conceived and designed the work specifically for **Piazza Maggiore**—for centuries, a public place for doing business surrounded by medieval buildings and the imposing Basilica of San Petronio. Forty-five dancers and performers participate as Sehgal uses their bodies and gestures for artistic and human material to compose a large work, a unique opportunity to experience art in terms of a social experience of mutual exchange.

Engaging with the curator, the artist meets the public in an event promoted by the CUBO Museo d'impresa del Gruppo Unipol on Sunday, 15 May, at 5 pm at the Unipol Enea Mazzoli Auditorium.

Nine **main projects** have been curated, produced, and created specifically for the event and built with regard to the places hosting them. Up-and-coming artists like **Benni Bosetto**, **Kipras Dubauskas**, **Mattia Pajè**, and **Emilia Tapprest** are joined by the more established **Andreas Angelidakis**, **Giulia Niccolai** (the only non-living artist), and **Italo Zuffi**, plus international names like **Carlos Garaicoa**, **Pedro Neves Marques**, and the previously mentioned **Tino Sehgal**. The attention to Italian art, chosen by Arte Fiera's artistic director **Simone Menegoi**, is accompanied by cross-fertilization and openness of artists worldwide. One defining element that cuts across the projects in this tenth event is the **experiential aspect prevalent in the work**, where action uses bodies to redefine space. If this is evident in Tino Sehgal's *Special Project*, it is no less meaningful for several other projects, starting with *Stultifera*. This great performative work by Benni Bosetto and curated by Caterina Molteni takes place in the **Salone degli Incamminati** of the **Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna**. Inspired by Sebastian Brant's satirical work *The Ship of Fools* (1494), the scene takes place on a ship destined to journey endlessly; its passengers interact by assuming archetypal identities in their need to define a new social order. *Stultifera* is a project funded by the Trust for Contemporary Art with the support of MAMbo, the National Art Gallery of Bologna, Palaexpo Special Company—il Mattatoio | Prender-si Cura project, in collaboration with Ateliersi. The experiential element returns in the exhibition dedicated to **Giulia Niccolai**, **Perché lo faccio perché**. **Giulia Niccolai's La vita poetica** is on display at the **Padiglione de l'Esprit Nouveau**. It was curated by Allison Grimaldi Donahue and Caterina Molteni and promoted by MAMbo. Here, the artist's poetic, visual, and audio research has been reconstructed and reactivated thanks to a performance by **Giulia Crispiani**, a writing and reading workshop with **Allison Grimaldi Donahue**, a video interview by **Bes Bajraktarević**, and a film project by **Sergio Racanati** and **Manuela Gandini**. The performative element is also found in **Emilia Tapprest's Zhōuwéi Network**, in collaboration with **Victor Evink**, at the **Musical Research Center–Teatro San Leonardo**. The immersive video installation and live performance curated by Felice Moramarco explore the relationship between dating, political power, and individual affective experiences through the medium of cinema. It has been promoted by the Embassy and Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I-Portunus, the Mondriaan Fund, and Stimuleringsfonds, in collaboration with DEMO Moving Image Experimental Politics, Adiacenze, and Angelica | Music Research Center. A peculiar trait of **Italo Zuffi's Fronte e retro** is his exploration of experiencing a space through actions to redefine it and create narratives. This personal exhibition is divided between two locations curated by Lorenzo Balbi and Davide Ferri and promoted by MAMbo and the Banca di

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Bologna. **MAMbo's Sala delle Ciminiere** offers a retrospective tour of the mid-1990s to 2020. Meanwhile, a new series of productions can be seen in the **Banca di Bologna's conference room** in Palazzo De' Toschi.

Since it first started in 2013, one other cornerstone of ART CITY's identity is how the works dialogue with the urban and architectural spaces, which emerges in other *Main Program* projects.

Presented at Palazzo Bentivoglio, **Andreas Angelidakis's** project **POST-RUIN Bentivoglio**, curated by Antonio Grulli, belongs to this approach. The large installation that gives the exhibition its title is at its center. It spans the three rooms in the building's 16<sup>th</sup>-century basement, referring to its past and an earlier building of the Bolognese family destroyed in a popular uprising. The work is part of a series in which the concept of ruin is subverted, making it usable in the way the public wants it.

**Emergency Break** by **Kipras Dubauskas** is set up in the centrally located **Sala Tassinari** in Palazzo D'Accursio, managed by the **Fondazione per l'Innovazione Urbana**. Elisa Del Prete and Silvia Litardi curated this film installation. It is being promoted by NOS Visual Arts Production in collaboration with Home Movies, the Lithuanian Institute of Culture, and the Sandra Natali Artist's Residence. For the first time in Italy, the project presents a trilogy dedicated to "rescue", a very up-to-date theme, which the Lithuanian artist began developing in 2019, with a preview of the chapter on Bologna.

In contrast, **Carlos Garaicoa** is the protagonist of the interaction with the 18<sup>th</sup>-century space of the **Oratorio di San Filippo Neri**, a quite popular place with the public. His installation was curated by Maura Pozzati and is being promoted by the Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna in collaboration with Galleria Continua. The Cuban artist approaches this place's history by recalling its destruction during the Second World War and the restoration that facilitated the recovery of a Bolognese Baroque architectural masterpiece.

The video installation **Aedes Aegypti** by the artist, writer, and director **Pedro Neves Marques** was curated by Sabrina Samori and promoted by MAMbo in collaboration with SMA–University Museum System. Its singular location creates a dynamic relationship with the hosting space, the University of Bologna's Botanical Garden and Herbarium. Its hyper-realistic digital animation highlights the artificiality of the female mosquito *Aedes Aegypti*, which carries the Zika and Dengue viruses. Scientists have developed a weapon that interferes with this insect's reproductive systems in their ongoing quest to control, regulate, and dominate nature. Male mosquitoes are injected with a "lethal gene", which transforms the reproductive act of impregnation into one of random sterilization. Expanding the idea of contagiousness in the pre-pandemic era, Neves Marques has used the example of *Aedes Aegypti* to refer to bodily suppression in the service of national and economic interests.

**Mattia Pajè's** exhibition **Fuori Terra** inhabits **Palazzo Vizzani's** historical rooms, centered on a sculptural group of humanoid figures immersed in an installation environment. It was curated by Giovanni Rendina, promoted by MAMbo and Alchemilla in collaboration with Associazione BOCA and Gelateria Sogni di Ghiaccio.

To become better acquainted with the poetics and practices of some of the Main Project artists, **Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna** will present the **ARTALK CITY** series, hosting

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encounters with the *Main Program* artists. Discussions will be held between artists, curators, and teaching staff. Open to the public, 11–15 May at 10:30 am in the auditorium.

In conjunction with the *Main Program*, the presence of a widespread, interconnected cultural system is fundamental to reconfirm contemporary Bologna's identity as a productive workshop of artistic events, with programming coordinated by **museums, foundations, and public and private institutional spaces** where the creativity of the present mirrors a multi-faceted range of approaches.

This week, the other leading player is the **Associazione Gallerie Bologna - Confcommercio Ascom Bologna**. Exhibitions range from the great Italian figurative art of the twentieth century to first-rate international artists, plus artists from our area. This jam-packed program ensures no shortage of exhibitions and other initiatives located in the most diverse types of **exhibition spaces and independent galleries**. Each year, they energize Bologna, transforming the city into a theater of a wide range of contemporary experiences.

### **ART CITY White Night**

Art lovers who wish to expand their orbit into myriad initiatives and spaces can focus on the evening of Saturday, 14 May, when **ART CITY White Night** returns, and contemporary art peacefully invades the city with exhibitions, performances, and other events held in public, private, and commercial areas.

The White Night has been organized by BolognaFiere as part of ART CITY Bologna 2022 and in collaboration with merchants and cultural players in Bologna.

### **The public. Access information**

To ensure the safe participation of workers and visitors, the return to sharing art and culture in person complies fully with the safety rules and health protection protocols in force for the length of the exhibition. In terms of promoting accessibility, **free access** to all events included in the *Main Program* remains confirmed

Always consult [artcity.bologna.it](http://artcity.bologna.it) for the most up-to-date information on how to enter the exhibition venues.

### **The guide and other tools to help you find your way around the program**

Program information is presented in two different editorial formats, with the visual design edited by Filippo Tappi and Marco Casella. It is always available to accompany you on your personal journey during the event and keep at the end.

The **guide booklet**, edited by Lorenzo Balbi, Caterina Molteni, and Sabrina Samorì, contains texts by curators and descriptions of the places on the *Main Program* in a bilingual Italian/English version. Copies are available in the offices of the related projects.

In order to find your way around all the programmed events, a **map** is available in Italian at all of the ART CITY Bologna 2022 locations, in the Bologna Welcome information and tourist reception points, and in the Arte Fiera pavilions.

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# ART CITY BOLOGNA

The complete program of ART CITY Bologna 2022 is available on the [artcity.bologna.it](http://artcity.bologna.it) website.

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## DATA SHEET

**ART CITY Bologna 2022 is promoted by:**  
Comune di Bologna and BolognaFiere

**As part of:**  
Arte Fiera

**Artistic direction:**  
Lorenzo Balbi

**Coordinated by:**  
Istituzione Bologna Musei | Area Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

**With the support of:**  
Gruppo Hera, Gruppo Unipol, CUBO Museo d'impresa del Gruppo Unipol, Associazione Gallerie Bologna - Confcommercio Ascom Bologna

**Period:**  
7–15 May 2022

**Entrance:**  
free of charge

**Website:**  
[artcity.bologna.it](http://artcity.bologna.it)

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Facebook Art City Bologna  
Instagram @artcitybologna  
#artcitybologna

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