



fiera internazionale d'arte  
moderna e contemporanea  
international exhibition of  
modern and contemporary art  
3-5/02/2023  
Bologna

## ARTE FIERA: the 46<sup>th</sup> edition

Bologna, 3-5 February 2023  
Preview 2 February 2023

Bologna – Arte Fiera will be back from **3 to 5 February**, reclaiming its traditional role as the year's first fair in Italy and returning to its customary site – **Halls 25 and 26** – a short walk from Piazza Costituzione, the fair district's main entrance from the city.

This will be the fair's **46<sup>th</sup> edition** and the 4<sup>th</sup> under the artistic direction of **Simone Menegoi**. This edition emphasizes renewal, starting with the decision (a first for a fair, in Italy or abroad) to appoint Enea Righi, a prominent collector, as Managing Director.

Arte Fiera's renewal, launched in anticipation of its 2023 edition and to consolidate in the years to come, involves a number of significant changes in the public program, the design of common areas, and the welcoming of visitors. The main contents of the exhibition and some of its new aspects are described below.



### sections

Arte Fiera 2023 will have **141 exhibitors** in the Main Section and curated sections.

The complete list of exhibitors is available at: <https://www.artefiera.it/en/catalogue/2023-exhibitors/5547.html?FROM=site>

The following is a brief description of each section.

The **Main Section** ranges from Modern and Post-War art (the Fair's traditional strong points) to contemporary research, with significant emphasis on Italian art. It includes **Percorso**, an itinerary that links some stands thematically. The theme of Percorso#1 is a material/technique that has recently recaptured worldwide interest: **ceramics**. Percorso#1 is supported by **Mutina**, a company that represents excellence in design ceramics, known throughout the world for its link with contemporary art.

Now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, **Pittura XXI** is a panorama of 21<sup>st</sup>-century Italian and foreign painting that ranges from emerging to mid-career artists. The section will again be curated by critic and independent curator **Davide Ferri**.

**Photography and moving images** has become a reference point for photography collectors and enthusiasts. The medium is considered from a wide-ranging perspective, in dialog with other media (especially video). The section has been assigned for the first time to **Giangavino Pazzola**, curator of Camera – Centro Italiano per la Fotografia (Turin).

**Multiples**, another new section, is devoted to all types of works in edition, especially books. Curated by **Lisa Andreani and Simona Squadrito**, founders of REPLICA - Archivio Italiano del Libro d'Artista, Multiples includes galleries as well as specialized bookshops and publishers, united by the shared concept of democratic collecting in harmony with the traditionally public and inclusive nature of Arte Fiera.



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## public program

In 2023, **Opus novum**, the commission of a **new work** to be presented at the fair, awarded to a mid-career Italian artist, will go to an acknowledged master: **Alberto Garutti**. Beyond the artist's merit, the choice also celebrates his bond with Bologna, where in the early '90s he chaired the Painting faculty at the Academy of Fine Arts and became a reference point for a generation of younger artists. The work was created with the support of Henoto, a leader in the setup sector.

**Performance** is a field of expression inseparably linked to Bologna and to Arte Fiera, which has made live performance an essential element of its program of events since 2019. The next edition opens a new chapter, the result of a collaboration between the fair and the **Furla Foundation**, curated by **Bruna Roccasalva**, the Foundation's artistic director. For 2023, there will be a single, large-scale event making its Italian debut, merging installation, performance and choreography: a live creation by **Public Movement**, an Israeli artistic collective.

Technical partner: I.E. InfrastrutturEcologia srl from Mirandola (MO).

At the Piazza Costituzione entrance, a 5x9-meter megascreen will display the first **LED Wall Commission**: a video conceived specifically for the billboard format, to be viewed by visitors as they enter the Fair District. LED Wall Commission#1 will be dedicated to a videomaker celebrated in the field of visual arts as well as in film: **Yuri Ancarani**, who, during the fair, will also have a solo show at MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna.

Once again, **Book Talk**, sponsored by Bper Banca and focusing exclusively on art books, will return to offer the public some of the most interesting books published recently in Italy, or on Italian art. The next edition of Book Talk will be managed by **Guendalina Piselli**, assistant to Arte Fiera's Artistic Director and former co-director of Fruit Exhibition - Independent Art Book Fair. Here are some highlights:

- **Irene Biolchini**, art historian and curator, and **Luca Bochicchio**, critic, curator, and director of MuDA - Museo Diffuso di Albisola, curate a program of presentations dedicated to **Percorso**, the thematic itinerary among the stands referring to ceramics, to sum up the publishing and exhibition situation in recent years with regard to this artistic technique.
- Curator **Luca Cerizza** and critic and curator **Cristiana Perrella**, along with artist **Massimo Bartolini**, present the book "Hagoromo. Massimo Bartolini" (NERO, 2022), the most complete presentation to date of the more than 30 years of artist's career.
- Taking Germano Celant's monograph (soon to be published) on Alberto Garutti as a starting point, **Antonella Soldaini** (curatorial consultant and head of research at Studio Celant), **Eva Fabbris** (curator and art historian) and **Simone Menegoi** retrace the career of Garutti and discuss the work he created for this edition of Arte Fiera.



## visitor experience

New design: the **Services Centre**, the area that welcomes visitors before they enter the halls, is designed by **MCA - Mario Cucinella Architects** with the installation **Connecting Green Hub**.



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**MCA**, in line with its waste-less logic based on re-use, proposed to re-adapt its “Design with Nature” installation, created for the recent Salone del Mobile di Milano. The new version of the table-environment, with curved and welcoming shapes, will feature a bookshop, a VIP desk, and an area devoted to presentations and meetings, becoming a space for cultural exchange and discussion. The installation is designed to remain open after Arte Fiera, with a variety of shapes and functions for other events to be held in the spaces of BolognaFiere during the year.

**Food**, an important part of a visit to any fair, will be completely updated with the collaboration of a fine catering service and an excellent chef: **Massimiliano Poggi**, who will create a new menu for the VIP Lounge, curated by **Dettagli**. The aim is to ensure the highest quality food (both fast and slow) to exhibitors and visitors on the days for setup as well as during the fair.



## **awards and trust**

### **Righi Collection Award**

Currently consisting of over a thousand museum-sized works, the **Righi collection** is one of Italy's most important private collections of contemporary art. The award, in its first edition, aims to acquire a work to be added to the permanent collection of MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna.

### **ColophonArte Arte Fiera 2023 Award**

The award, in its first edition, is presented to young artists by a major publisher of Italian art books: **Colophonarte**, publisher of artist books with a catalog of over 120 titles. The award is open to **artists under 40** of any nationality. The winner will design and print a book in an edition of 500 copies, plus a special more limited edition.

### **Lexus Award –Morini Group**

**The Lexus Award – Morini Group**, making its debut in 2023, regards the acquisition at Arte Fiera 23 of a work by an emerging artist that concerns sustainable mobility, relations with the environment, and ecology.

### **Oswaldo Licini Award by Fainplast**

This award stems from an idea by the **Picena Contemporary Art Association** with the collaboration of the **City of Ascoli Piceno** and the **Fainplast Group**. One of the four finalists of the Oswaldo Licini Award by Fainplast, now in its third edition and open to an Italian artist whose principal medium is painting, will be selected at Arte Fiera in the **Pittura XXI** section.

### **Rotary Award**

The **Rotary Award**, which reaches its 11<sup>th</sup> edition in 2023, is presented to the most creative installation at Arte Fiera 2023, whether a creation by an artist or the overall setup of a stand. The award has several components, such as the Arte Fiera 2023 Rotary Award to gallery, the Special Rotaract Bologna Award, and the Special Andrea Sapone Rotary Club Bologna Valle del Samoggia Award.



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### Spada Partners Award

As a result of its history and aptitude, Studio Spada Partners is a reference point in tax, administrative, and corporate consulting for businesses and families. In the sphere of its Corporate Social Responsibility activities, it supports projects that merge art and solidarity. The award supports an artist, regardless of nationality, age, or discipline, by the acquisition of a work that provides the best interpretation of the times we live in.

### The collectors.chain Prize by Art Defender

For the second edition of *The collectors.chain Prize*, **Art Defender** has chosen to have the winning work (which it will add to its collection) selected by a jury of collectors chaired by critic Walter Guadagnini. The prize regards the **Photography and moving images** section of Arte Fiera, confirming Art Defender's interest in this medium.

### Trust for Contemporary Art

For the second year, the **Trust for Contemporary Art**, founded in 2020 by the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna, Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna, and BolognaFiere, will allocate Euro 30,000 to acquire at the fair works to be added to the permanent collection of **MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna**. One of the Trust's specific goals is to expand Bologna's public collections of Italian art from the 1950s to today.



[art city bologna](http://artcitybologna.it)

**ART CITY Bologna**, from **27 January to 5 February**, the institutional program of exhibits, events and special initiatives promoted by the **City of Bologna and BolognaFiere**, returns to introduce and accompany Arte Fiera's activities.

Directed for the sixth year by **Lorenzo Balbi**, director of MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, **ART CI-TY Bologna** will once again highlight the city's richness and vitality in the field of contemporary culture, this enlarged and polycentric edition will expand into the entire metropolitan area with a program of over **150 events** organized by museums, foundations, public and private institutional spaces, modern and contemporary art galleries associated with Confcommercio Ascom Bologna, individuals, and independent galleries and exhibition spaces.

For the 2023 edition, the Main Program offers a **special project** and **12 main projects** which, as always, provide a comprehensive view of contemporary artistic practices. The special project once again invites the public to immerse itself in live works of art with ***Have a Good Day!***, created by three female artists from Lithuania: **Vaiva Grainytė, Lina Lapelytė and Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė**.



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The 12 main projects are by artists of different generations who dialog with the city: **Yuri Ancarani, Katerina Andreou, Bettina Buck, Nathalie Djurberg, Roberto Fassone +Ai Lai + LZ, Eva Marisaldi, Jonas Mekas, Gerold Miller, Lucy + Jorge Orta, Patrick Procktor, Agnes Scherer and Dominique White.**

And of course, the vibrant atmosphere of **ART CITY White Night** will return on Saturday 4 February, providing the opportunity to enjoy art throughout the city, with galleries, independent exhibition spaces, historical buildings, and shops open until midnight.

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#### Digital Kit Arte Fiera 2023

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