



FIERA INTERNAZIONALE D'ARTE
MODERNA E CONTEMPORANEA
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART
6-8 FEB 2026
BOLOGNA

ARTE FIERA 49 - COSA SARÀ

6-8 February 2026

Preview 5 February 2026

Following a highly successful 2025 edition, with the leading Italian galleries and the most important collectors here in Bologna, Arte Fiera now launches its next cycle with new Artistic Director **Davide Ferri**, in synergy with **Enea Righi**, who will serve as Managing Director for the fourth year.

Arte Fiera, the longest-running Italian art fair, remains a key point of reference for the Italian art system, a role it has played since its first edition in 1974.

This edition's title, ***Cosa sarà (What it will be)***, implies energy projected toward the future; a degree of unexpectedness; a reference to the enigmatic aspect that keeps collectors and art lovers so intensely bound to contemporary art.

"With the 49th edition of Arte Fiera, BolognaFiere confirms its support of the Italian art system, accentuating its quality, plurality of styles, and dialog between post-war and contemporary art. Its new Artistic Director, renewed cultural project, and introduction of the Arte Fiera Fund enhance the exhibition's position as the national reference for galleries, collectors, and cultural operators. Thus, Arte Fiera continues to play a key role in the cultural and economic development of Emilia-Romagna and of the entire country." – states **Gianpiero Calzolari**, President of **BolognaFiere**.

The public's loyalty to Arte Fiera derives from years of familiarity with the fair's spaces: the two halls in which it is traditionally held, lit throughout the day by daylight, create an ambience in which works of post-war art (Hall 26) dialog with contemporary art and latest-generation research (Hall 25).

Exhibitors, sections, curators

Even with a few changes – a renewed team of curators, a new project for the “modern” hall, and a different structure for the curated sections – Arte Fiera 49's look reaffirms its Italian identity, celebrating its many and multifaceted forms and reinforcing it with the return of prestigious long-time exhibitors and the participation of numerous first-time galleries.



BolognaFiere spa
Viale della Fiera, 20 - 40127 Bologna, Italia
PEC: bolognafiere@pec.bolognafiere.it
Capitale Sociale € 194.811.457,00 i.v.
C.F. - P. IVA e Reg. Imp. BO 00312600372 - REA BO367296

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In addition to **174** galleries, there will be **12 exhibitors** in the section dedicated to **publishing** and **15** in the one dedicated to **institutions**, for a total of **201 exhibitors**.

For the complete list, go to this link:

www.artefiera.it/arte-fiera-/elenco-espositori/9719.html

Along with the **Main Section**, that ranges from modern and post-war art - always the fair's strong points - to contemporary research, there will be **five curated, invitation-only** sections, with some important new additions.

"Ventesimo+" is the new project for the modern art hall, addressed to galleries that focus on post-war art. Presenting Italian and international art from the early 20th century to today, it is curated by **Alberto Salvadori**, critic and curator, director and founder of Fondazione ICA in Milan. "Ventesimo+" focuses on collecting and indicates possible modes and interpretations marked by eclecticism and transversality, and considers the growth of every collection as a specific, unique, identifying phenomenon.

"Fotografia e dintorni," the new name of the section devoted to the photographic medium, is curated by **Marta Papini**, an independent curator who since 2004 has curated *Radis*, the public art project promoted by Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT. The section presents photography from a wide perspective, and includes post-war masters and young talents, formal research and conceptual approach, as well as dialog with other media.

"Multipli" – curated for the first time by **Lorenzo Gigotti**, editor, co-founder and head of content of NERO – explains, by means of a wide range of media and formats (lithographs, artist books, design pieces, graphics, photographs, as well as audio books and new media), how an important part of the art scene in Italy and abroad is adopting methods to increase reproducibility and accessibility with the aim of creating more open and inclusive market structures, able to attract new collectors.

"Pittura XXI" - curated for the first time by **Ilaria Gianni**, critic, curator, and co-artistic director of the IUNO independent space in Rome – reinterprets painting as a contemporary medium in a period in which it has thundered back on the art scene, and includes a number of emblematic researches by artists of different generations, emerging a midcareer, Italian and international, from 2000 to today.

"Prospettiva," now in its second year, is again curated by **Michele D'Aurizio**, critic and independent curator. The section is dedicated to the creative research of young artists and presents monographic presentations by emerging galleries (with less than ten years of activity) and by established galleries with a research-oriented program.



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The new selection committee

Arte Fiera's **selection committee** has been renewed to best reflect and promote the fair's principal lines of research: post-war art and contemporary creativity, from the 21st century's most successful masters to the languages of the most recent generations. The committee has expanded from five to seven, with four new members: **Gian Marco Casini** (Gian Marco Casini Gallery, Leghorn), **Davide Mazzoleni** (Mazzoleni, Turin, London – UK, Milan), **Enzo Savoia** (Bottegantica, Milan), and **Benedetta Spalletti** (Vistamare, Milan, Pescara), who join **Fabrizio Padovani** (P420, Bologna), **Carlo Repetto** (Repetto Gallery, Lugano - CH), and **Federica Schiavo** (Federica Schiavo Gallery, Rome).

PRELUDIO #1 - Marcello Maloberti, KOLOSSAL

Powered by Gruppo Hera

Preludio is the new name of the artist commission, i.e., the creation of a new work by a major contemporary Italian artist. Placed at the main entrance or at another entrance to the fair, the work created for *Preludio* is both premise and threshold, literally a beginning, the first image that visitors see as they enter Arte Fiera.

For Arte Fiera 49, **Marcello Maloberti** has created the site-specific project **KOLOSSAL**. A large temporary installation - a precarious monument, an anti-monument – welcomes visitors near the main entrance to the fair. A crane on a truck lifts a road map of Bologna, uprooted from its original location and now suspended between ground and sky to evoke the city's history. The raw earth and cement lumps anchored to the two support poles are left visible, like roots that point out their origin. The work seems to be a suspended door that opens to the infinity of the sky, whose upward quest and tension lift an entire city. During the days of the fair, the installation will activate with the circulation of numerous posters, created ad hoc, moving around the city and the fair along with its visitors. The project was created with the generous support of **Gruppo Hera**, a multiutility that has always been close to the territory in which it operates, creating value through culture.

Collaborations and partnerships

Arte Fiera and **Furla Foundation** have renewed their collaboration for the program of live performances curated by **Bruna Roccasalva**, the Foundation's Artistic Director.

Following the performances by the Public Movement collective (2023), and by artists Daniela Ortiz (2024) and Adelaide Cioni (2025), the artist chosen for the 2026 edition will be **Chalisée Naamani** (b. 1995, France).

Chalisée Naamani's art is marked by an interdisciplinary approach that includes painting, sculpture, fashion, and technology, merging diverse styles and materials. Her research



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explores construction of the identity of, and mechanisms to represent, the body in contemporary visual culture, traversing mainstream culture, references to art history, and autobiography. Her works, often created by assembling recycled materials and fabrics printed with images from her constantly expanding personal archive, take the form of what she calls “vêtements-images” (image-dresses): garments conceived as paintings or sculptures, and therefore not meant to be worn. At Arte Fiera 2026, Chalisée Naamani will present ***Wardrobe (2026)*** a new work conceived for the Padiglione de l'Esprit Nouveau. Inspired by the dual nature of the Padiglione – manifesto of modernist ideals and prototype of the *machine à habiter* (a house is a machine for living) - Naamani transforms the building into a sort of large wardrobe in which she stages daily life through the act of ironing.

Arte Fiera is happy to announce that **BPER**, the Main Partner of Arte Fiera's 2025 edition, continues its commitment to the event. BPER thus confirms its dedication to art, culture, and creativity, convinced that these values are essential for both the public and local development as well as important means for greater social inclusion.

Arte Fiera also continues its collaboration with **ANGAMC**, Associazione Nazionale Gallerie d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, with which it has formed a permanent committee.

Book Talk

Book Talk returns for its fifth year. This cycle of talks, devoted entirely to art books, produced in partnership with **BPER** and curated by **Guendalina Piselli**, highlights the lively relationship between art and publishing, as well as its ability to stimulate great interest not only among professionals but in the general public.

A full calendar of events during the fair will present some of the most interesting new or soon-to-be-issued publications – catalogs, monographs, theoretical writings, and artist books – with the participation of critics, scholars, and artists. The 2026 edition pays special attention to indie publishers and presents a panorama of the contemporary publishing industry.

This edition's presentations will include two photographic books that investigate gender and human behaviors, both issued by indie publishers: “**Changing Room**” (Altana, 2025) by **Chiara Calgaro** and “**A Study On Waitressing**” (Witty Books, 2024) by **Eleonora Agostini**, winner of the 2025 Paris Photo–Aperture PhotoBook Award in the First PhotoBook category.

Cecilia Canziani (curator of the Italian Pavillion at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, co-founder of IUNO, and author), **Simone Menegoi** (critic and curator) and **Filippo Nostri** (graphic artist) present “**Fotografie e altre cose**,” the first monograph on **Alessandra Spranzi** (viaindustriae, 2026) together with the artist and **Ilaria**



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Gianni, the book's curator. **Lorenzo Balbi** (Director of MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna) and **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo** (President of the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation), together with the book's curator **Giorgina Bertolino** (art historian), will present “**NEWS FROM THE NEAR FUTURE. 30 anni della Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**” (Allemandi, 2025).

There will also be the Italian preview of “**Sudario #1: Ouroboros**,” the new visual arts magazine dedicated to voices from and about the Mediterranean, presented by artists **Rä di Martino** and **Irene Fenara** and by **Stefano Tripodi**, Sudario's founder.

The program also includes the presentation of the “**Michael E. Smith, CC**” catalog (CURA, 2026), from the current exhibition at Palazzo Bentivoglio, with curator **Luca Lo Pinto**, **Simone Menegoi**, and **Tommaso Pasquali**, director of Palazzo Bentivoglio; a talk with **Chiara Baldovini** (Sicily Institute), **Martina Motta** (researcher), and **Giacomo Porfiri - Alterazioni Video** (artist and author) on the relationship between architecture and the environment, as described in Alterazioni Video's book “**INCOMPIUTO. La nascita di uno stile**” (Humboldt Books, 2025) and in AA.VV's, “**Sicilia**” (Sicily Institute, 2025).

New Arte Fiera Fund and Awards

Arte Fiera presents the awards for the 2026 edition. There are seven main supporters of Italian contemporary art at Arte Fiera: the event's partners, some private collectors, and a national award. **Seven awards** to emerging and mid-career artists, with a multiplicity of subjects and languages reflecting contemporaneity. The award ceremony will be held on Friday 6 February at 4 PM in the Book Talk area of the Services Center.

In addition to these seven awards, there is now the Arte Fiera Acquisition Fund, an **important 100,000 Euro acquisition fund financed by BolognaFiere e Cosmoprof**. The second edition of the **Flash Art Italia Award** will also take place at Arte Fiera.

Arte Fiera Fund

This year, for the first time, **BolognaFiere and Cosmoprof** have created a 100,000 Euro fund for the acquisition of artworks presented at the fair.

For over 50 years, Cosmoprof, the world's foremost B2B exhibition for all sectors of the cosmetics industry, organized by BolognaFiere Group, has been the key event for industry companies and professionals, from supply chain to finished product. Cosmoprof provides a global platform for doing business, creating connections, and discovering market trends, with an international network of events that link the world's largest markets, including Hong Kong, Mumbai, Miami, Las Vegas, Bangkok, and Dubai.

In collaboration with BolognaFiere, the fund will provide 100,000 Euros for the acquisition of works to enrich BolognaFiere's permanent collection.

ANGAMC Prize - Associazione Nazionale Gallerie d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea



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The **ANGAMC Prize for Lifetime Achievement** acknowledges the career and activity of a gallerist belonging to the Italy's National Association of Modern and Contemporary Art Galleries who over his/her career has shown special commitment to the sector, achieving widely recognized success at the artistic, human and commercial level. The **ANGAMC Prize** also serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the indispensable role of a professional figure central to the dissemination of art and culture: **the gallerist**.

BPER Prize

The BPER Prize, devoted to promoting women's empowerment, debuted in 2024 and is part of the BPER Group's traditional value structure focused on inclusion and against gender violence, united with the promotion of culture and art.

In the two editions held so far, BPER has acquired the winning work, now displayed in the contemporary art space of the BPER Gallery corporate collection, thereby providing visibility to the artist and to the work after the conclusion of Arte Fiera.

The jury will be composed of Sabrina Bianchi, Brand & Marketing Communication Service Manager - Cultural Heritage and Corporate Collection La Galleria BPER; ; Lara Conte, Professor of Contemporary Art History at Università Roma Tre; Daniela Ferrari, art historian and museum curator.

Righi Collection Award

The aim of the Righi Collection Award, in its 4th edition in 2026, is to acquire a work at Arte Fiera, with a particular focus on the work of the latest generations of Italian artists. Currently consisting of over a thousand museum-quality works, the Righi Collection is one of Italy's largest private collections of contemporary art.

The jury will be composed of Michele Bertolino, Associate curator, Centro Pecci; Frida Carazzato, Research curator, Fondazione Museion; Andrea Viliani, Director, MUCIV-Museum of Civilizations, Rome.

Marval Acquisition Award

Addressed primarily to emerging and mid-career artists, the **Marval Acquisition Award** consists of an acquisition to be added to the Marval Collection, a residency offered to the winning artist, and a targeted post on the Collection's network to give the artist and gallery as much visibility as possible.

The Marval Collection was born from the passion of two collectors, Marco and Valeria Curina, who in 2018 decided to join forces by officially establishing a foundation and a program supporting not only emerging artists but also fairs and galleries.

The jury will be composed of Claudio Cerabolini, collector; Luca Curradi, Fine Art Consultant; Giovanni Loi, Senior Legal Counsel; Clarissa Pelucchi, Managing Director of Frigoriferi Milanesi.

Officina Arte Ducati Prize



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For the 2026 edition, the **Ducati Prize** expands to the entire Pavilion 25, taking on even greater significance in the year that marks Ducati's centennial celebrations. Starting from the claim that expresses the celebration - *A Century Made of Seconds* -, the Award exemplifies the qualities that define it: intensity, speed, and dynamism are the characteristics that describe both Ducati's history and artistic research beginning in the early 20th century.

Therefore, in the next edition, the **Officina Arte Ducati Prize** will be assigned to the work which, in both form and concept, expresses these characteristics to the utmost.

The jury will be composed of Luca Cerizza, independent curator and art critic; Cristiana Perrella, Artistic Director of MACRO-museo d'arte contemporanea, Rome; Stefano Tarabusi, Design Manager Ducati Motor Holding.

Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award

The Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award stems from an initiative by the Picena Contemporary Art Association with the collaboration of the City of Ascoli Piceno and Fainplast to honor a 20th century master. It is dedicated to Italian painting, and is unique in that it does not have an internal jury, but rather forty contemporary art professionals who are requested to name two artists who have done outstanding work during the year or have achieved a major career.

For the 2026 edition, one of the five finalists will be chosen from the Pittura XXI section of Arte Fiera by a jury composed of a representative of the Picena Contemporary Art Association and of two professionals chosen by Arte Fiera. The artwork by the selected finalist will be acquired by the **Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award**.

The jury will be composed of Adrienne Drake, Director and curator of the Giuliani Foundation for Contemporary Art, Rome; Roberta Faraotti, Head of External Relations and Welfare at Fainplast; Denis Isaia, Mart, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, Collections office - Deputy director.

Rotary Award

Now in its 14th consecutive edition, the **Rotary Award** is presented to the most creative installation at Arte Fiera 2026, whether a creation by an artist or the overall setup of a stand. The Award consists of the Rotary Award Arte Fiera 2026 to gallery, the Special Rotaract Bologna Award to the artist presented by the gallery that wins the Rotary Award, and the Special Andrea Sapone Award by Rotary Club Bologna Valle del Samoggia.

The jury will be composed of Jadranka Bentini, President of the Zucchelli Foundation; Daria Filardo, Curator and Art Dep. Coordinator IED Firenze; Andrea Gotti, President of Rotary Club Bologna Valle del Samoggia; Guido Molinari, Art critic and lecturer at Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna; Fabiola Naldi, Lecturer and art critic.

Flash Art Italia Award

The second edition of the **Flash Art Italia Award** will take place during Arte Fiera, marking 60 years since the founding of the historic magazine. Created in 2025, the Award



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considers Italy's entire art ecosystem and regards 10 categories: Best Artist, Best Curator, Best Gallery, Best Territory, Best Institution, Best Project Space, Art and Fashion Award, Art and Business Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Writing Award – attesting to the complexity and strength of an Italian culture system that is too often fragmented. The award ceremony will be held in the charming **Cinema Modernissimo** in Bologna on February 6, 2026, confirming Arte Fiera's role as the reference point on the Italian art scene.

Arte Fiera online

Arte Fiera enriches and develops its contents with new formats on its social channels.

LET'S WALK is the new video format designed to explore the deep bond between Arte Fiera and the city of Bologna, enhancing the dialog between contemporary art, urban memory, and collective identity.

Each episode tells a story on a walk that becomes a way to discover or rediscover important places in the city – spaces with great historical value, forgotten buildings, unusual sites, areas of urban transformation, symbols of culture.

The format's guests – personalities linked to the city by birth, attraction, or experience - are invited to speak about a location and their personal relationship with it through memories, evocations, anecdotes, and thoughts.

The first two episodes are dedicated to **Kenzo Tange's Towers**, which have identified the BolognaFiera District since 1983, discussed by architect and designer **Mario Cucinella**, and to **Niccolò dell'Arca's Lamentation over the Dead Christ**, a group of terracotta sculptures and one of the 15th century's greatest masterpieces, visited and discussed by artist **Franco Guerzoni**. The third episode is dedicated to the **Renato Dall'Ara stadium** in the Porto-Saragozza district, where **Lorenzo De Silvestri** (b. Rome, 1988), one of Bologna's most representative players, talks about his relationship with the field, the city, and art.

ART CITY Bologna

Arte Fiera welcomes the 14th edition of **ART CITY Bologna**, one of Italy's most highly-awaited contemporary art events, directed by **Lorenzo Balbi** for the 9th consecutive year. Promoted by the **City of Bologna** with the support of **BolognaFiere**, the event offers a comprehensive program that engages the public and visitors in a **widespread cultural experience**. The distinctive element of this year's edition is the **Special Program** entitled ***Il corpo della lingua***, curated by **Caterina Molteni**, a **special collaboration with Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna**, further strengthening the bond between the exhibition and the city's cultural and civic fabric. The concept explores **training** and **teaching** as physiological and perceptible experiences, developing as an itinerary of



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contemporary art that creates a dialog between the University of Bologna and some of its most emblematic sites with the works of seven Italian and international artists: **giulia deval** (*PITCH. Notes on Vocal Intonation*, in the “Alessandro Ghigi” hall of the former Institute of Zoology), **Mike Kelley** (*Day is Done*, in the atrium of the former Faculty of Engineering), **Ana Mendieta** (*Flower Person, Flower Body*, in the Sala della Boschereccia, Palazzo Hercolani), **Alexandra Pirici** (*Rejoin*, in the Anatomical Theater of the City Library, Archiginnasio), **Augustas Serapinas** (*Chair for the Invigilator*, in the Federico Zeri Foundation), **Jenna Sutela** (*nimia cétii*, in the Teaching Laboratory of the Navile District), and **Nora Turato** (*To the Best of My Knowledge*, in the Great Hall of the University Library of Bologna).

All of the installations in the Special Program may be seen free of charge.

On the days of the fair, the entire city is transformed into an enormous stage for contemporary culture. Over **300 events** – exhibits, performances, talks, installations, etc. – promoted by public and private organizations highlight the vitality and richness of Bologna’s artistic scene.

Of course, ART CITY Bologna will also include **ART CITY White Night, Saturday 7 February 2026**. The public will be able to enjoy art in the city during the evening, when cultural and business operators will stay open late.

See the complete program with exhibits and selected events on www.artcity.bologna.it.

Arte Fiera – Press Office

Elena Pardini elenapardini.it
+39 348 3399463

Claudia Malfitano claudia@mayvenice.com
+39 346 5401118

BolognaFiere – Communication & Media

Elena Sabbatini elena.sabbatini@bolognafiere.it
+39 051 2828



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