

Arte Fiera presents a new format: Percorso

This edition's thematic itinerary focuses on ceramics Bologna, 3-5 February 2023

A new format makes its debut at Arte Fiera 2023: **Percorso**, a thematic itinerary among the stands of the Main Section (with a few detours to the curated sections). A different, targeted way to see the fair.

The theme of Percorso#1 is a material/technique that has had a worldwide revival in the past 20 years: **ceramics**. Since the early 2000s, the art world has acknowledged that this technique (often previously relegated to the decorative arts) is a legitimate and timely means of expression, as confirmed (to cite an exemplary event, a *terminus a quo*) by the awarding of the prestigious Turner Prize in 2003 to Grayson Perry, a British artist known for his ceramics richly illustrated with images and texts related to political, social, and gender-associated themes. Since then, interest in ceramics has grown constantly, on the one hand influencing an entire generation of young artists – for whom it has become a customary means of expression – and, on the other, stimulating interest in past masters who worked in ceramics, from the early 20th century on.

The itinerary proposed by Percorso #1 - Ceramics evokes (incompletely, of course) the history of ceramics in Italian (and a bit of foreign) art in the 20th and 21st centuries. The itinerary opens with the greats - Lucio Fontana, Fausto Melotti, Leoncillo - who, from the '30s to the '50s, laid the foundation for an idea of ceramic sculpture as a fine art, and continues with artists who kept their lesson (sometimes taken directly from the masters) alive in the '60s and '70s (Giuseppe Spagnulo, Nanni Valentini), while during these years artists like Franca Maranò asserted the feminine character of this technique. The '80s, emphasising manual ability, saw the rediscovery of terracotta and ceramics by artists such as Giacinto Cerone, Gianni Dessì, Milan Kunč, Luigi Mainolfi, Mimmo Paladino, Marco Montesano – for some of whom these techniques became reference points – and stimulated experiences on the border between art and design (Roberto Matta, Ettore Sottsass, Ugo La Pietra). On the interdisciplinary horizon of the '90s, ceramics were produced by eclectic artists such as Vincenzo Cabiati and by Giosetta Fioroni, a trailblazer from the '60s, while Bertozzi and Casoni, from Faenza, attracted worldwide attention with figurative ceramics of astounding virtuosity in baroque and decadent style.

In the 21st century, ceramics was rediscovered by a handful of artists, a few of whom are now firmly associated with this technique, such as Salvatore Arancio – perhaps the best known with regard to the revival in Italy – Liliana Moro and Sissi, Andrea Anastasio, Lorenza Boisi, Davide Monaldi, Pietro Weber, plus others who work less frequently in ceramics, such as Agostino Iacurci, Luca Lanzi, Diego Miguel Mirabella, and Andrea Nisbet, as well as the youngest artist, Caterina Morigi. There is also a well-nourished list of foreign names, from post-war masters such as Arman and Louise Nevelson to key figures from the '70s and '80s such as Anne and Patrick Poirier and James Brown, in addition to a group of more recent artists such as Dominik Lang, Claire Lindner, Florence Peake, and Shafei Xia.

Percorso#1 is sponsored by **Mutina**, a company that represents excellence in design ceramics, known throughout the world for its link with contemporary art.



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Mutina views ceramics not as a simple coating, but as an interior design project that merges technology and handmade, based on experiments to surpass the limits of the matter and research to guarantee the highest quality.

At Arte Fiera Bologna 2023, Mutina will also present Mutina × Mousse, a multifunctional environment in which ceramics, design, contemporary art and books combine to offer visitors an immersive experience marked by the intertwining of polyhedric languages.

Galleries and artists

Main section

- ABC ARTF / Nanni Valentini
- · AF GALLERY / Vincenzo Cabiati
- UMBERTO BENAPPI / Gianni Dessì
- BIASUTTI & BIASUTTI / Andrea Nisbet
- · FLORA BIGAI / Bertozzi & Casoni
- · CA' DI FRA' / Ugo La Pietra
- MAURIZIO CORRAINI / Andrea Anastasio. Giosetta Fioroni
- DE' FOSCHERARI / Liliana Moro, Luigi Mainolfi
- EX ELETTROFONICA / Agostino lacurci
- GALLERIA STUDIO G7 / Anne et Patrick Poirier, Caterina Morigi
- GALLERIA MAZZOLI / Vincenzo Cabiati, Mimmo Paladino

- GASPARELLI ARTE CONTEMPORANEA / Giacinto Cerone*
- L'ARIETE / Luca Lanzi, James Brown
- MAAB / Claire Lindner
- GALLERIA D'ARTE MAGGIORE G.A.M. / Louise Nevelson, Arman, Sissi
- MENHIR ART GALLERY / Massimo Angèi
- MLB MARIA LIVIA BRUNELLI / Bertozzi & Casoni*
- · P420 / Shafei Xia
- PROGETTOARTE ELM / Giuseppe Spagnulo

- REPETTO GALLERY / Lucio Fontana, Leoncillo Leonardi, Fausto Melotti
- RICHARD SALTOUN / Franca Maranò, Florence Peake
- SCHIAVO ZOPPELLI GALLERY / Salvatore Arancio
- STUDIO D'ARTE RAFFAELLI / Pietro Weber, Mitrikova & Demjanovic, Milan Kunc, Gian Marco Montesano
- STUDIO SALES / Diego Miguel Mirabella, Davide Monaldi
- THE GALLERY APART / Dominik
- GALLERIA TONELLI / Lucio Fontana, Fausto Melotti

Pittura XXI

RIBOT / Lorenza Boisi*

Photography and moving images

ANTONIA JANNONE DISEGNI DI ARCHITETTURA / Ettore Sottsass

Multiples

- PARADISOTERRESTRE / Roberto Matta*
- Solo show or dedicated stand

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