

THE OSVALDO LICINI BY FAINPLAST AWARD RETURNS TO ARTE FIERA

During Arte Fiera in Bologna, one of the five finalists of the fifth edition of the Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award will be selected

February 6, 2025 - The Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award, established by the initiative of the Associazione Arte Contemporanea Picena in partnership with the renowned compound manufacturing company Fainplast (the sole sponsor) and in collaboration with the Municipality of Ascoli Piceno, confirms its presence at Arte Fiera in Bologna for 2025. This fifth edition of the Award once again demonstrates, through the efforts of an association, a private patron, and an institution, the desire to honor one of the great figures of the 20th century: Osvaldo Licini.

For the fifth time, as in previous years, one of the five finalists of the Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award will be chosen during Arte Fiera, within the Pittura XXI section. The selection will be made by a jury that includes a member appointed directly by the Associazione Arte Contemporanea Picena, represented by collector Roberta Faraotti, alongside two contemporary art professionals chosen by Arte Fiera: Bernardo Follini, Senior Curator at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin, and Pier Paolo Pancotto, an independent critic and curator.

The selected artist will advance to the final round with a minimum of three votes (to which additional votes from external jurors may be added) and will compete with other finalists chosen by external jurors. The Osvaldo Licini by Fainplast Award is dedicated to Italian painting and aims to provide a mapping of this medium at the dawn of the 21st century. It is organized through an external jury comprising over forty contemporary art professionals, including curators, critics, collectors, museum directors, and specialized journalists. These jurors are invited to nominate two artists whom they believe stood out in 2024 or have an established significant career.

The nominations must adhere to five criteria outlined in the regulations: artists must be of Italian nationality or permanently reside in Italy; the medium used must primarily be painting; they must not exceed 64 years of age (the age Osvaldo Licini was at his death); they must have participated in at least one major exhibition in Italy or abroad (biennials, quadriennials, or equivalent events); they must not have previously won the award.

The first four editions of the award saw victories—and subsequent solo exhibitions at the Osvaldo Licini Contemporary Art Gallery in Ascoli Piceno—by Marco Neri (2021), Riccardo Baruzzi (2022), Valerio Nicolai (2023), and Luca Bertolo (2024). Luca Bertolo's exhibition titled *Ma sedendo e mirando. L'intruso* is open at the Osvaldo Licini Contemporary Art Gallery in Ascoli Piceno until May 4, 2025, curated by Alessandro Zechini.

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