



fiera internazionale d'arte
moderna e contemporanea

international exhibition of
modern and contemporary art

07-09/02 2025
Bologna

Arte Fiera: the 2025 edition has concluded

Artistic Director **Simone Menegoi**, who has brought the fair to new heights, will be succeeded by **Davide Ferri**.

After the conclusion of a very successful edition, Arte Fiera takes stock and announces some new developments for 2026.

Positive signs were clear from the preview, when presentations by **176 galleries** were applauded by a public composed of VIP collectors (about 400 of whom were the fair's guests), representatives of institutions, professionals, and reporters from Italy and abroad, all gathered in Halls 25 and 26.

The public also turned out in large numbers, with **50,000 visitors**, while the general and trade **press**, radio and TV dedicated full coverage to the exhibition and to its special projects, describing the fair before its opening and on a day-by-day basis. Coverage on **social media** grew significantly in terms of followers and engagement, confirming Arte Fiera's large community. The **Book Talk program**, devoted to the relationship between art and publishing, and the special projects in the public program were also very successful: **Adelaide Cioni's** performance in the Padiglione de l'Esprit Nouveau was the result of the partnership between Arte Fiera and **Furla Foundation** for the live performance program, and **Maurizio Nannucci's** project for the **Opus Novum** series of commissions gave many visitors a chance to carry home a work of art: the fair's shopper, which the artist designed as a new multiple.

As for the **market**, Arte Fiera confirmed its ability to present art in a wide variety of forms, including the most accessible (multiples), works by emerging artists, and by modern and contemporary masters. Sales were brisk from day one, despite an overall soft phase, and notwithstanding the news (announced during the fair) that Italian VAT would not be lowered for works of art.

Arte Fiera 48 marks the conclusion of **Simone Menegoi's** term as Artistic Director. These last three years, in unique synergy with Managing Director **Enea Righi** were devoted to a task he launched in 2019: reclaiming Arte Fiera's role as the reference point for Italian galleries and for 20th-and 21st-century Italian art. There is no doubt that he has achieved his goal. For the 2026 edition, Arte Fiera's **new Artistic Director** will be art critic and independent curator **Davide Ferri**, the curator of Arte Fiera's special project *Solo figura e sfondo* in 2019 and of the *Pittura XXI* section since 2020.

To quote **Gianpiero Calzolari**, BolognaFiere's Chairman, "The 2025 edition of Arte Fiera has made even clearer the results of our work with Simone Menegoi, based above all on the fair's identity and the quality of its proposals. We thank Menegoi for the professionalism, diligence, and conviction with which he carried out his role as Artistic Director since 2019, going through and overcoming the difficult period of the pandemic. We thank Enea Righi for joining the project to relaunch the fair and for sharing its viewpoint, expertly managing all aspects regarding the fair's relations with collecting. With great satisfaction for the goals achieved, we look



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C.F. - P. IVA e Reg. Imp. BO 00312600372 - REA BO367296

Show Office
Tel./Ph. +39 051 282.929 - 282.355
PEC: bucultura@pec.bolognafiere.it
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forward to the 2026 edition and welcome Davide Ferri, our new Artistic Director, already on the Arte Fiera team as curator of the “Pittura XXI” section. We are certain that he will successfully meet the challenges that await us.”

On the final day of his term, Artistic Director **Simone Menegoi** says, “I thank BolognaFiere for the past seven years of our collaboration, for the trust it showed in me, and for its support of my decisions. It was a demanding but wonderful experience. I am proud of our results, accomplished together with all of the people on our team, both inside and outside the fair, whose contribution was essential. I now pass the baton to Davide Ferri, who has worked with me since the very beginning and knows Arte Fiera and its dynamics from top to bottom. I offer him my very best wishes for the continued growth of this great and historic exhibition.”

Davide Ferri's first comments are, “I am very happy and excited. I was on Simone Menegoi's team from year one, and experienced first-hand the wonderful and successful progress of his artistic direction. I thank him first of all. I also thank BolognaFiere, Chairman Gianpiero Calzolari, and CEO Antonio Bruzzone for their trust in me, Managing Director Enea Righi, with whom I will be very happy to work in close contact, and the entire Arte Fiera staff, all of whom I have had the pleasure of knowing. I inherit a vigorously expanding fair, and begin not only from this indisputably positive fact, but also with a special bond of affection for Arte Fiera that has grown over the years, an affection shared by countless professionals and by the public.”

A special thanks to Arte Fiera 2025's Main Partner, **BPER Banca**, which has confirmed its support of the exhibition for the next three years, and to **Ducati**, which has also confirmed its partnership for the *Percorso* section, **AON** and **Stefauto**.



Awards

7 awards were assigned during Arte Fiera, representing various forms of support of Italian art: awards from private collections and partners for acquisitions, as well as a collaboration with the foremost national award for painting.

The **BPER Award** was assigned to **Sabrina Mezzaqui**, represented by the Massimo Minini Gallery, for her work *Lettere*, 2010. A special mention went to **Arianna Zama**, represented by Fuocherello, for her works *Rosa, come le gengive dei leopardi*, 2025, and *Pastorello non ti scordar di me*, 2023. The winning works will be acquired and installed in BPER's exhibition spaces, providing further visibility for the work and the artist even after the conclusion of Arte Fiera.

There was also a dual award ceremony for the **Marval Collection Award**, which for the first time was assigned to two artists: **Sang Woo Kim**, represented by Herald St, for his work *The corner 015*, 2024, and **Wenhui Hao**, represented by L.U.P.O. – Lorenzelli Projects, for her work *Blue*



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Butterfly Passage, 2025. Both works will become part of the Marval collection.

The **Righi Collection Award**, focusing specifically on the work of recent generations of Italian artists, was assigned to **Andrea Romano**, represented by the Federica Schiavo Gallery, for his works *Anteo*, *The Art of Self-Denial*, 2024, and *Te Rerioa*, *Fake Flock Two*, 2024, which will be included in the collections of MAMbo - Museo d'arte moderna e contemporanea di Bologna.

The **Officina Arte Ducati Award**, dedicated to the *Percorso* format, whose theme this year was "Community: not 'I,' but 'we,'" was assigned to **Marinella Senatore**, represented by the Mazzoleni Gallery, for her work *There is so much we can learn from the sun*, 2024, which was acquired by the corporate collection in Borgo Panigale, supported by the Ducati Foundation.

From among the galleries in the *Pittura XXI* section, the **Oswaldo Licini by Fainplast Award** selected **Sebastiano Impellizzeri**, represented by Société Interludio, as one of the five finalists of the award "for the quality of his pictorial research, which proposes a solid dialog between art history and modern life."

Now in its 13th edition, the **Rotary Award** was assigned to **Studio G7 Gallery** for Daniela Comani's courageous personal project entitled *Perturbazione #2*, an installation that focuses on the relationship between the weather and climate change, presenting her mother's car, smashed by a tree felled by the wind. The **Rotaract Award** and the **Andrea Sapone Award** were both assigned to **Juri Bizzotto**, represented by the Astuni Public Studio Gallery for his consistency and control of various media, with which he has created a mature and original narrative.

The **Collectors.Chain Prize by Art Defender**, dedicated to the *Photography and moving images* section, was assigned to **Leila Erdman – Tabakashvili** (A Pick Gallery), a young photographer who "unites the immediacy of the photographic image with suggestions deriving from the use of a word that is alternately poetic, ironic, or dramatic," for her works *Stability.jpg*, 2024, ... and *I run from you to you.jpg*, 2024, *The wind, the wind, dry their tears, let them sleep, bring tomorrow closer.jpg*, 2024.

Flash Art Italia Award

Arte Fiera inaugurated the first edition of the Flash Art Italia Award. On Friday, 7 February, in the packed Cinema Modernissimo, the award ceremony gathered the entire Italian art system to celebrate the Award's 14 categories.

Biography of Davide Ferri

Davide Ferri (b. Forlì, 1974), an art critic and independent curator, lives in Rome. He teaches Museography at Bologna's Academy of Fine Arts. Since 2020, he has curated the "Pittura XXI" section at Arte Fiera, Bologna. He works regularly as a curator at Palazzo De' Toschi - Banca di Bologna and at the Coppola Foundation in Vicenza. Since 2012, he has curated the Art Section at the Ipercorpo Theater Festival.

He has curated numerous exhibits and projects in galleries and contemporary art museums, including: Peggy Franck, *In a Naked Room*, Palazzo De' Toschi, Bologna, 2025; *Hm, He, Ha* (with Elena Volpato) / Luca Bertolo, Manuele Cerutti, Pesce Khete, Michele Tocca, Coppola Foundation, Vicenza, 2024; Patrick Tuttifuoco, *Abbandona gli occhi*,



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Palazzo De' Toschi, Bologna, 2024; *Quadri come luoghi*, exhibit in five locations organized for Bergamo Brescia Capitale italiana della Cultura, 2023; Bettina Buck, *Finding Form*, Palazzo De' Toschi, Bologna, 2023; Italo Zuffi, *Fronte e retro* (with Lorenzo Balbi), Museo MAMbo and Palazzo De' Toschi, Bologna, 2022; Markus Schinwald – *Misfits*, Coppola Foundation, Vicenza, 2020; *Le realtà ordinarie*, Palazzo De' Toschi, Bologna, 2020; Neo Rauch - Rosa Loy, *La Torre*, Coppola Foundation, Vicenza, 2019; *Solo figura e sfondo / Courtesy Emilia Romagna, Arte Fiera*, Bologna, 2019; *Afro. Pensieri nella mano*, Musei San Domenico di Forlì, 2015; *Tutta l'Italia è silenziosa*, Villa Massimo – German Academy, Royal Academy of Spain, Brazilian Embassy, Polish Institute, Russian Center for Science and Culture, Rome, 2015; *Franco Guerzoni – Nessun luogo, da nessuna parte. Viaggi randagi con Luigi Ghirri*, Milan Triennial, 2014; *La figurazione inevitabile. Una scena della pittura oggi*, Luigi Pecci Center for Contemporary Art, Prato, 2013; *Sentimiento Nuevo* (with Antonio Grulli), MAMbo, Bologna, 2011.

Arte Fiera – Press Office

Elena Pardini
elena@elenapardini.it
+39 348 3399463

Maddalena Bonicelli
maddalena.bonicelli@gmail.com
+39 335 6857707

BolognaFiere – Press Office

Elena Sabbatini
elena.sabbatini@bolognafiere.it
+39 051 282876



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