

## Italo Zuffi

### *Fronte e retro*

Curated by Lorenzo Balbi and Davide Ferri

Banca di Bologna | Palazzo De' Toschi

May 12–29, 2022

Opening: Wednesday, May 11, 6:30 PM

Istituzione Bologna Musei | MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

January 20–May 15, 2022

On the occasion of ART CITY Bologna 2022, Banca di Bologna presents *Fronte e retro*, a solo exhibition by Italo Zuffi in the Conference Hall of Palazzo De' Toschi. This exhibition completes the project inaugurated last January at MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna.

Curated by Lorenzo Balbi and Davide Ferri, the exhibition maintains both temporal and conceptual continuity with the ongoing show at MAMbo, forming a single project articulated across two spaces. While the first part offers a retrospective view of Zuffi's work (spanning pieces created between the mid-1990s and 2020), the Palazzo De' Toschi exhibition features a series of new productions that delve into some of the pivotal aspects of his recent research.

This transition ensures that the exhibitions in the two spaces are entirely focused on one of the most significant Italian artists born in the late 1960s, providing a comprehensive 360-degree exploration of his work.

Together, the exhibitions revolve around a few thematic cores that have consistently underpinned Zuffi's work, translating into contrasts and oppositions affecting both the body (often the artist's own) and sculptural form: between the ideas of construction and, at the same time, destruction/fall; of labor and energy dispersion; of softness and rigidity.

At Palazzo De' Toschi, *Fronte e retro* features a series of new works created specifically in response to the characteristics of the exhibition space, focusing primarily on sculptural practice. This practice is configured as the faithful reproduction of a form while simultaneously questioning it through intrusions and fragmentations. This second exhibition also highlights one of the fundamental aspects of Zuffi's recent research: his investigation into language, employed both in poetic form (*Poesie Doppie* is the title of a collection of short poetic texts by the artist, written between 2013 and 2014 and published by Sete) and as an element from which sculptural forms emerge.

The setup, which annually reinterprets the Conference Hall of Banca di Bologna at Palazzo De' Toschi in completely new ways, centers on the dialogue between two key works. *Civilizzarsi* (Civilizing Oneself), a piece that unfolds from the use of words as tools for describing simple, everyday actions generating processes of action, reaction, and synthesis, is presented alongside a new version of *Gli ignari* (The Unaware): a series of ceramic still lifes accompanied by sounds created by a layering of whistles, here reinterpreted into a new composition. Each of these works is installed on the walls of a triangular structure with a strong sculptural presence in the space. These two poles, functioning as devices accessible from all sides, are equipped with independent lighting, allowing visitors to chart their own paths in the darkness of the hall.



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Finally, an adjacent space to the main hall will host a third installation, offering a further reflection on sculpture. A series of carts bearing fruits display possible combinations of elements marked by traces of alteration, seeming to embody the idea of contrast and the desire to redefine their very forms.

### Biography of Italo Zuffi

Born in Imola in 1969. Lives in Milan.

A visual artist, he works with performance, sculpture, and writing.

He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna and Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design in London. In 2001, he was awarded the Wheatley Bequest Fellowship in Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Institute of Art & Design, School of Art in Birmingham (UK).

He teaches at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan and the Free University of Bolzano, Faculty of Design & Arts. From 2011 to 2019, he was a Visiting Lecturer in Performance at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague (NL). In 2013, he co-founded the collective *Pavel und Pavel* with Margherita Morgantini.

### Recent solo exhibitions

*In forma di riepilogo*, CLER, Milan (2019); *postura, posa, differita*, ar/ge kunst, Bolzano (2016); *Potersi dire*, MAN, Nuoro (2015); *Quello che eri, e quello che sei*, Nomas Foundation, Rome (2015); *La penultima assenza del corpo*, Fondazione Pietro Rossini, Briosco (2012); *Zuffi, Italo*, Pinksummer, Genoa (2010).

### Recent group exhibitions

*IN BLANCO. La porcellana nella ceramica d'arte italiana contemporanea*, curated by Matteo Zauli, Museum of Art of the Jingdezhen Ceramic University, Jingdezhen, China (2021); *Performative 01, Contact(less)*, Maxxi L'Aquila (2021); *141 - Un secolo di disegno in Italia*, curated by Maura Pozzati and Claudio Musso, Palazzo Paltroni, Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna, Bologna (2021); *C.U.O.R.E. (Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events)*, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Palazzo Lucarini Contemporary, Trevi (2021); *Non giudicare*, curated by Viola Emaldi, Antico Convento di San Francesco, Bagnacavallo (2020); *Vincenzo Agnetti, Autoritratti Ritratti - Scrivere, Enrico Castellani Piero Manzoni Italo Zuffi*, curated by Giovanni Iovane, Building gallery, Milan (2019); *BienNolo*, Ex Fabbrica Cova, Milan (2019); *HOSPITALITY*, curated by Marie de Brugerolle, Non-objectif sud, La Barralière, Tulette (FR) (2018); *Deposito d'arte italiana presente*, curated by Ilaria Bonacossa and Vittoria Martini, Artissima, Turin (2017); *Roberto Daolio. Vita e incontri di un critico d'arte attraverso le opere di una collezione non intenzionale*, curated by Uliana Zanetti, MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (2017); *16th Quadriennale di Roma* (section curated by Michele D'Aurizio), Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (2016); *Toute première fois*, curated by Francesca Napoli and Armelle Leturcq, 22 Visconti, Paris (2016); *Ricettivo nouveau*, Garage Carcani, Rome (2016); *THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME*, Approdo fluviale, Lungotevere San Paolo, Rome (2016); *Contemporary*, avant-garde music and art festival, curated by Maurizio Coccia and Roberto Follesa, Various Venues, Donori (2016); *Fuori Uso*, curated by Giacinto Di Pietrantonio, Ex Tribunale, Pescara (2016); *Riviera*, curated by Caterina Riva, Swiss Institute of Milan (2016); *Performance: everywhere*, curated by Frida Carazzato, Teatro Cristallo, Bolzano (2016); *Ipercorpo 2016 - Cosa rimane* (section curated by Davide Ferri), Ex Centrale Avicola Amadori, Forlì (2016); *ALT*, curated by Cripta 747, Caserma De Sonnaz, Turin (2015).

### INFO

#### Exhibition:

*Italo Zuffi. Fronte e retro*

#### Curated by:

Lorenzo Balbi and Davide Ferri

**Promoted by:**

Banca di Bologna

Istituzione Bologna Musei | MAMBo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

**Venues:**

Conference Hall of Banca di Bologna – Palazzo De' Toschi, Piazza Minghetti 4/D | Bologna

MAMBo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Via Don Minzoni 14 | Bologna

**Opening period:**

Palazzo De' Toschi | Banca di Bologna: May 12–29, 2022

MAMBo: January 20–May 15, 2022

**General information:**

**Palazzo De' Toschi | Banca di Bologna**

Piazza Minghetti 4/D | 40124 Bologna

Tel. +39 051 6571431

[contemporary.bancadibologna.it](http://contemporary.bancadibologna.it)

**Opening hours of Palazzo De' Toschi**

Friday: 4 PM–8 PM

Saturday and Sunday: 10 AM–8 PM

Free admission

**MAMBo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna**

Via Don Minzoni 14 | 40121 Bologna

Tel. +39 051 6496611

[www.mambo-bologna.org](http://www.mambo-bologna.org)

Facebook: MAMBoMuseoArteModernaBologna

Instagram: @mambobologna

Twitter: @MAMBoBologna

YouTube: MAMBo channel

**Opening hours at MAMBo**

Tuesday and Wednesday: 2 PM–7 PM

Thursday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays: 10 AM–7 PM

Closed on non-holiday Mondays

**Admission to MAMBo:**

Full price: €6

Reduced price: €4

**Information for a safe visit:**

<http://www.mambo-bologna.org/news/news-170/>

**Opening hours at both venues during ART CITY Bologna:**

Thursday, May 12: 10 AM–8 PM

Friday, May 13: 10 AM–8 PM



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Saturday, May 14: 10 AM–12 AM

Sunday, May 15: 10 AM–8 PM

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