



Press release

“DEGREES OF FREEDOM”

An art and science exhibition on our potential to be, or not to be free. Istituzione Bologna Musei MAMbo – Museo d’Arte Moderna di Bologna – Sept 18 – Nov. 22, Opening on Thursday September 17.

An idea and a production by **Fondazione Golinelli** in partnership with **MAMbo**. A project by Giovanni Carrada, curated by Giovanni Carrada and Cristiana Perrella.

New answers to old questions.

Degrees of freedom is an exhibition on some of life’s oldest questions that science can now help us to answer: is our behaviour free or determined? What can increase or restrict our freedom? What are its boundaries?

Evolutionary biology, psychology, neuroscience and other disciplines are telling us that we are neither robots nor perfectly free agents, and that each of us can find his or her unique position on a very wide spectrum between these two extremes. The exhibition will be about some of the mechanisms through which you and I have reached our own position – one that is different in each domain of life – but can also change it. Results in this fast developing and exciting area of research are far from definitive, but they can already feed into our self-awareness, and thus our possibility to be (more) free.

Science, art, and the brain

Since freedom is about decisions, and decisions are made by the brain, the human mind is the real object of the exhibition. But, while it is quite clear why science has something to say about the brain, what about art? The themes that we will examine in the exhibition are objects of many artists’ research. Some artists are seeking answers to the very same

un progetto di



con la collaborazione di



Comune di Bologna



Cultura
è Bologna



questions as psychologists and neuroscientists. Contemporary artists have gained for themselves a much higher degree of freedom and often set an example of it: freedom to think and criticize, freedom to imagine, an urge to create ever new ways to see and new imaginary worlds. The main answer, however, may well be that, as neuroestheticist Semir Zeki has convincingly argued, art is a privileged, direct window onto the workings of the human brain.

How do art and science interact?

The exhibition is made of six parts that develop a single overall argument.

Each part is about a different topic and includes:

- a short video with a story that explains the science;
- one or more works of art by major international contemporary artists;
- one or more exhibits of different kinds, such as an interactive experience, a test, an object, or just a quote that makes you think.

The idea is that the works of art do not illustrate the science in any way, but offer a different perspective or a different insight on the same thing. Indeed, the works of art are chosen for their power to complement the science. Art and science add new meanings to each other, so as to enrich and deepen the visitor's experience, which really is born out of the interplay between the two. The exhibition, however, raises questions rather than give answers.

Themes:

1. Is freedom an illusion?

On the many inherited and social influences on our choices and behaviour, the neuroscientist's observation that the brain seems to know

un progetto di



con la collaborazione di



Comune di Bologna



Cultura
è Bologna



about choices before we consciously do, and the actual rarity of freedom.

2. Two brains in one

On the interplay between the fast, powerful, and largely instinctive cognitive unconscious, and the slower, limited, and attention-based consciousness.

3. How freedom develops

On the deep reworking of the brain's structure during adolescence, and the crucial importance of teenagers' life real and imaginative experiences in shaping the options that they will be considering during his or her whole life.

4. Digital technologies and freedom

On the freedom that greater access to information and greater possibility of communication give us, and the limitations that the digital media's nature may impose on cerebral wellsprings of freedom.

5. Science and contemporary art as education to freedom

On the shared features of the scientific and artistic enterprises and communities that can make them great schools of freedom.

6. Freedom is the condition of freedom

On why social and political freedom is essential to the development of freedom at the personal, mental level, and the real reason why "maintenance" of all dimensions of social and political freedom is so important.

The exhibition's audience

Using a format that has been developed by the **Fondazione Golinelli** in the course of the years, where artists probe cultural, philosophical and social questions connected with cutting edge scientific and technological research, the exhibition is addressed to a wide audience, composed by

un progetto di



con la collaborazione di



Comune di Bologna



Cultura
è Bologna



adults and children, art lovers and science fans, specialists and amateurs. Everyone can find some food for thought in the encounter of two different but in certain aspects complementary ways of relating to the world which can help in translating into tangible experience a fascinating and complex theme, stimulating the debate on it.

A demonstration that good art and good science are not so very different, and that when they find their niche, their joining can make something powerful, interesting and beautiful.

Title: "Degreese of Freedom" An art and science exhibition on our potential to be, or not to be free.

Curated by: Giovanna Carrada e Cristiana Perrella

Produced by: Fondazione Golinelli www.facebook.com/fondazione.golinelli

Educational and Cultural mediation: curated by Fondazione Golinelli and Dipartimento educativo MAMbo

Sede: Istituzione Bologna Musei | MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, via Don Giovanni Minzoni, 14

Date: September 18 – November 22, 2015

Opening: September 17 at 6 pm

Orari: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at from 12-18 pm; Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and holydays from 12-20 pm; closed on Monday

Entrance: 6 euro (full ticket); 4 euro (reduced ticket); free for school, reservation are requie at: info@artescienzaeconoscenza.it

Info: www.artescienzaeconoscenza.it; www.mambo-bologna.org

Link Dropox and images in the exibition Degreese of Freedom:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ome2dv3pcrdu4bs/AADJNSfumbV_oXpUQBGMQF8Wa?dl=0

Ufficio stampa: Delos 02.8052151 delos@delosrp.it

un progetto di



con la collaborazione di



Comune di Bologna



Cultura è Bologna



un progetto di



con la collaborazione di

