



PRESS RELEASE

**CARA DOMANI
opere dalla collezione Ernesto Esposito**

curated by Caroline Corbetta

**MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna
29th September – 2nd December 2012**

Continuing in its investigation into the identity and functions of a contemporary museum, which is one of its principal lines of research, the MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna opens its exhibition spaces to offer a critical approach to the junction between the public dimension of a museum and the intimate one of a private collection, presenting the ***CARA DOMANI opere dalla collezione Ernesto Esposito*** from 29th September to 2nd December 2012.

The wide-ranging exhibition, curated by Caroline Corbetta, provides an opportunity to showcase for a wider public a selection of works from the **private collection of Ernesto Esposito**, the internationally-renowned designer of haute couture shoes and owner of a collection of over 900 pieces of contemporary art, one of the most significant at a European level.

The exhibition at the MAMbo explores Esposito's unusual imagination, leading the gaze of the spectator towards a fascinating journey revealing – as though in a self-portrait in progress – a **curious, refined and bold taste**, which is not timid but instead gives way to an omnivorous, visceral, devouring desire to the point of compulsion. The exhibition layout itself is not arranged by organic theme or style but in line with a single scenographic itinerary that offers a sense of the kaleidoscopic vitality of the collection, in which masters of contemporary art maintain a dialogue with emerging artists in a surprising continuity.

The narrative of this intellectual and emotive adventure, which is still under way, unfolds in close relation with the museum's exhibition spaces through a **selection of 76 works – comprising paintings, photographs, videos, sculptures and installations – produced by 69 artists** of various generations and cultural and geographical areas.

This provides the setting for some of the most interesting developments in painting in recent decades: from the enigmatic stylised figurative work in **Alex Katz**'s portraits to the obsessively hypnotic signs of **Yayoi Kusama**, the refined monochrome work with its vibrant texture of **Jason Martin**, and on to **Damien Hirst**'s 2007 work, *Beautiful Guest Must Dress in Pastel Only for the Picture Painting*, from his Spin Painting series.

Similar in the provocative energy they share, originating from the New York scene that exploded at the beginning of the 2000s, are further works by **Dan Colen**, **Terence Koh**, **Ryan McGinley**, **Agathe Snow**, **Dash Snow** and **Aaron Young**, in which the urban youth subcultures are reviewed in a synthesis blending elements of pop, neodada and conceptual art.

The layout of the exhibition also offers surprising interludes of intellectual rigour with seminal works by **Joseph Beuys** and **Joseph Kosuth**: an *Untitled (Braunkreuz)* work from 1962 by the former, with its mystical and symbolic content, and *One and three frames by the latter*, dating from 1965 and marking the start of a tautological reflection about artistic language that would be continued more than 40 years later by the **Claire Fontaine** collective with a luminous installation of 2009 called *This neon sign was made by...*

The contemporary pop scene is the protagonist of the psychedelic atmospheres used by **Jim Lambie** and the **avaf (assume vivid astro focus)** collective, while with his installation *San Pellegrino Fountain* **Rob Pruitt** regenerates the banality of everyday consumerism into bubbling joy, transforming the museum's Sala delle Ciminiere into a public square.

Such milestones in contemporary art as *Ides of March*, painted by **Cy Twombly** in 1962, which took abstract expressionism to unreachable levels of playful emotiveness, or **Robert Mapplethorpe**'s photograph of *Ken Moody* of 1983, celebrating the perfection of classical anatomical beauty, are counterbalanced by significant works by artists who are still busy today, such as **Francesco Vezzoli** and **Martin Creed** – present respectively with a 2009 tapestry, *Enjoy the New Fragrance (Lee Miller for Greed)*, and an installation, *Work No. 180; Largo, larghetto, adagio, andante, moderato, allegro, presto, prestissimo* (1995-2004).

Distant worlds and stimuli with apparently nothing in common attain a **happily eccentric coherence** in Ernesto Esposito's collection, in which can be felt a sense of vitality, albeit veiled by melancholy, which it is hard not to refer in some way to **Naples**, where the designer was born and has chosen to live.

The inspiration for the MAMbo's exhibition betrays an affectional reference to the city: *Cara domani* is the name of the 1995 work by **Jack Pierson** in which the American artist brought together the two words he claimed to have heard most often during a stay in Naples.



Ten plastic, metal and bakelite letters form an expression in which materialises the local character, hovering between courtesy and procrastination, between sentimentalism and resignation.

Naples's charisma also provided the inspiration for Andy Warhol's *Vesuvius*, one of the 18 pictures of the volcano produced in 1985, and the metal assembly by Robert Rauschenberg, *Albino Spring Glut (Neapolitan)*, made from refuse found in the city and put on show in the gallery of Lucio Amelio (Ernesto Esposito's mentor) for the American artist's one-man show in 1987.

It was in the lively climate of avant-garde modernity enjoyed in the city, created in part thanks to the activities of gallery-owners like Lucio Amelio, Lia Rumma and Pasquale Trisorio, that the very young Esposito began collecting in the 1960s, after being overwhelmed by a retrospective of Andy Warhol and his Factory that he saw in Paris.

The collection that developed over a period of 40 years reveals the physiognomy of a soul the exhibition curator describes as being "*dominated by a totalising passion that has desire as its sole guide*".

Constantly evolving, the collection cannot be defined as a group of works collected on the basis of predefined project criteria; rather, its increase in based on sometimes **sentimental choices** governed by an innate instinct and by an aesthetic sense averse to market fashion and trends.

The collector himself describes his passion thus: "*It is an obsession, a bad habit... The more art I possess, the better I feel... I belong to that circle that has lived every day of its life with the unstoppable impulse of having to buy significant works for its collection, which feels art as being a veritable source of happiness, and its collection as a means to spread culture (through temporary exhibitions) in the most topical and personal way possible*".

The selection of works on show also makes it possible to focus on some specific thematic aspects developed by the Istituzione Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna in documenting the most important contemporary art trends in Europe and America, highlighting a **significant closeness of intent in orientation and critical intuition** with the choices made by the collector. There are many artists who have in recent years been presented in group exhibitions, from **Andy Warhol** and **Matthew Barney** to **Thomas Ruff** and **Michelangelo Pistoletto**, or in one-man shows, such as that dedicated to **Markus Schinwald**, the first of its kind in Italy and organised by the GAM in 2006 as part of the *Coming Soon MAMbo* cycle; another such was that with the American **Kelley Walker**, protagonist in 2008 of the latest project realised as a pair with Wade Guyton especially for the MAMbo. **Alberto Tadiello, Francesco Vezzoli** and **Vedovamazzei**,



meanwhile, are included in the exhibition of the museum's Permanent Collection in the *Focus on Italian Contemporary Art* section dedicated to the latest generations of Italian art.

The *CARA DOMANI opere dalla collezione Ernesto Esposito* exhibition, organised by ORA S.r.l. and MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna with the external coordination of Giuliana Picarelli, is accompanied by a **catalogue** published by **Edizioni Corraini** in an original news magazine format dedicated to Ernesto Esposito. It includes an introduction by Gianfranco Maraniello, a long interview with the collector by the curator, Caroline Corbetta, texts – among others – by Beatrice Bulgari, Lapo Elkann, Fabio Novembre and Silvia Venturini Fendi, and a supplement with illustrations of all the works on show.

A busy calendar of didactic activities, guided visits and workshops is organised by the **MAMbo Educational Department** for the whole period of the exhibition. Special visits are held every Thursday at 6.30 pm and on Sundays at 5 pm. Entrance: € 4 plus the exhibition ticket (€ 6 full, € 4 reduced), for a minimum of 6 and maximum of 30 people. Information and bookings: ph. (+39) 051 6496628 (Monday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm); ph. (+39) 051 6496611 (Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm).

The **press conference** presenting the exhibition will be held on Thursday, 27th September at 12 noon within the exhibition spaces on the museum's ground floor.

The **vernissage** will take place on Friday, 28th September from 7 pm to 10 pm, with access for the public.



Artists: avaf (assume vivid astro focus), Charles Avery, Matthew Barney, Joseph Beuys, Tom Burr, Peter Coffin, Dan Colen, Martin Creed, Alberto Di Fabio, Natalie Djurberg, Claire Fontaine, Luke Fowler / Kosten Koper, Luca Francesconi, Cyprien Gaillard, Gilbert & George, John Henderson, Damien Hirst, Haavard Homstvedt, Rashid Johnson, Alex Katz, Terence Koh, Joseph Kosuth, Yayoi Kusama, Mark Leckey, Phillip Lai, Jim Lambie, Annika Larsson, Robert Mapplethorpe, Helen Marten, Fabian Marti, Jason Martin, Barry McGee, Ryan McGinley, Birgit Megerle, Jonathan Monk, Seb Patane, Marco Perego, Manfred Pernice, Jack Pierson, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Richard Prince, Rob Pruitt, Mel Ramos, Robert Rauschenberg, Dan Rees, Ugo Rondinone, Thomas Ruff, Eduardo Sarabia, Markus Schinwald, Steven Shearer, Agathe Snow, Dash Snow, Martin Soto Climent, Ruby Sterling, Alberto Tadiello, Hank Willis Thomas, Cy Twombly, Keith Tyson, Eulalia Valldosera, Vedovamazzei, Francesco Vezzoli, Tris Vonna-Michell, Kelley Walker, Andy Warhol, Gillian Wearing, Jordan Wolfson, Aaron Young

Biographical profile of Ernesto Esposito

Ernesto Esposito began his career in the 1970s working for one of the most important shoe designers in the world, Sergio Rossi. In the 1980s, he joined the staff of the young Marc Jacobs, with whom he worked for almost ten years. Chloé, Sonia Rykiel and Louis Vuitton are some of the maisons with which Ernesto Esposito was subsequently able to establish his own talent in the fashion sector. His passion for art developed a unique of seeing things and inspired his own creations. His fascinating personality has been portrayed and interpreted by some of the most famous artists and photographers: Andy Warhol, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Helmut Newton, Jack Pierson and Mario Testino.

For further information:

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Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

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We wish to thanks:

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San Pellegrino

LIST OF WORKS

avaf (assume vivid astro focus)

installation

45 images printed from DVD

Charles Avery

Untitled (Klein), 2009

pencil and gouache on card, plaster, wood

Charles Avery

Untitled (Klein playing chess), 2009

pencil and gouache on paper

Matthew Barney

The Ballad of Gary Gilmore, 1999

gelatin silver print, acrylic frame

Joseph Beuys

Untitled (Braunkreuz), 1962

mixed media on paper

Tom Burr

Untitled, 2003

vinyl, steel cable

Peter Coffin

Untitled (pirate), 2005

aluminium

Dan Colen

Shitface, 2007

oil and rubber on canvas stretched on Joe Bradley's stretchers, 4 parts

Martin Creed

Work No. 180; largo, larghetto, adagio, andante, moderato, allegro, presto, prestissimo, 1995-2004

8 metronomes

Alberto Di Fabio

Indolent of aggressive, 2011

acrylic on canvas



Nathalie Djurberg
Danse macabre, 2005
animation on DVD, 5' 13"

Claire Fontaine
This neon sign was made by... (Felice Lo Conte), 2009
neon, white wires, paintings, transformers

Claire Fontaine
This neon sign was made by... (Franco Gobbo), 2009
neon, white wires, paintings, transformers

Claire Fontaine
This neon sign was made by... (Nino Gabrielli), 2009
neon, white wires, paintings, transformers

Luke Fowler / Kosten Koper
The way out (portrait of Xentos Jones), 2003
DVD, 33' 10"

Luca Francesconi
Sciuscià, 2006
stone, shoe polish

Cyprien Gaillard
La grande allée du Château de Oiron, 2008
C-print mounted on dasec

Gilbert & George
Aklis, 1980
photo ink on photographs in artists' frame, 15 parts

John Henderson
Cast, 2011
aluminium cast

Damien Hirst
Beautiful Guests Must Dress In Pastel Only For The Pictures Painting, 2007
gloss household paint on canvas

Haavard Homstvedt
The Stickler, 2010
oil on canvas mounted on panel



Rashid Johnson
Trown by Chnua Achebe, 2005
sculpture, painted wood

Alex Katz
Kate, 2003
oil on canvas

Terence Koh
50 star machine of drowning boy, 2004
mixed media, metal, cables, plastic, glass, paint, wax, mirror, cotton, light

Joseph Kosuth
One and three frames, 1965
installation with photography, wooden frame and photostat

Yayoi Kusama
Untitled, 1991
acrylic on canvas

Mark Leckey
Little Richard in Bavaria, 2003
Lambda colour print

Phillip Lai
Untitled, 2007
C-type print

Phillip Lai
Untitled (with walls seats), 2007
plastic, metal, zinc plate

Jim Lambie
Diamond, 2000
LP covers and tape

Jim Lambie
Club X (Turin), 2005
disks covers, black tape



Annika Larsson
Inbjudan till Herr B, 1998
VHS copy on DVD, 10' 53"

Robert Mapplethorpe
Ken Moody, 1983
gelatin silver print

Helen Marten
The advent of a word-class economy, 2009
mixed media

Fabian Marti
A life that lasts eternally, 2007
inkjet print on paper

Fabian Marti
I wonder how life will be, 2007
inkjet print on paper

Jason Martin
N-gulu, 2007
oil on aluminium

Barry McGee
Untitled (12 elements), 2004
paint on panels

Ryan McGinley
Dan and Eric, 2001
C-print on aluminium on forex support

Ryan McGinley
Dash Cutting Lines, 2000
C-print on aluminium on forex support

Birgit Megerle
Untitled, 2005
acrylic on canvas



Jonathan Monk
Brown Eyes, 2003
found photographs, brown pins

Seb Patane
16 gennaio 1968, 2007
print on PVC, tape, enamel

Marco Perego
Untitled, 2012
acrylic on linen

Manfred Pernice
Untitled, 2009
wood, paint, paper

Jack Pierson
Cara domani, 1995
plastic, metal, Bakelite letters

Michelangelo Pistoletto
Ernesto Esposito, 1988
2 mirrors

Richard Prince
What to Do, 2008
collage and acrylic on canvas

Rob Pruitt
San Pellegrino Fountain, 2004
San Pellegrino water cases, tarpaulin, sprinkler

Mel Ramos
Miss American Legion, 1964
oil on canvas

Robert Rauschenberg
Albino Spring Glut (Neapolitan), 1987
mixed media

Dan Rees
Untitled (Purple), 2011
oil on linen, metal hooks

Ugo Rondinone
I don't live here anymore, 2001
C-print, plexiglass, Alucobond

Thomas Ruff
Nude ye26, 2006
chromogenic colour print

Eduardo Sarabia
Untitled, 2004
acrylic paint, wooden box, hand painted ceramic vase

Markus Schinwald
Ten in love, 2006
35 mm on DVD, 22' 41"

Steven Shearer
Hash, 2005
oil on linen

Agathe Snow
Knock Yourself Out, 2007
mixed media

Dash Snow
Incest, the game all the family can play, 2006
photograph, record player, hand painted record, hand painted cinderbloks

Martin Soto Climent
Graffiti Blind (movement n.1), 2009
spray paint on Venetian blind

Martin Soto Climent
Graffiti Blind (movement n.2), 2009
spray paint on Venetian blind

Martin Soto Climent
Graffiti Blind (movement n.3), 2009
spray paint on Venetian blind



Ruby Sterling
Physicalism the Recombine I, 2006
Lambda print

Alberto Tadiello
EPROM, 2008
carillon, electric engines, electric wires

Hank Willis Thomas
Who can say no to a Gorgeous Brunette?, 2007
lightJet Print 1970

Cy Twombly
Ides of March, 1962
oil and pencil on canvas

Keith Tyson
Nature Painting, 2008
mixed media on aluminium

Eulalia Valldosera
Dependencia mutua, 2009
video-performance, 2009 in collaboration with Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli and Studio Trisorio
HD video, monocanal, stereo, digital file & DVD 5' 56"

Vedovamazzei
Vanity Fair 765, 2008
magazine, collage

Francesco Vezzoli
Enjoy the New Fragrance (Lee Miller for Greed), 2009
inkjet print on brocade, wool, cotton, metallic embroidery, jewellery

Tris Vonna-Michell
La borsa e la bicicletta, 2009
audio recording, 13' 58"

Kelley Walker
Maui, 2001
variable dimensions
print from CD



Andy Warhol
Vesuvius, 1985
acrylic and serigraphy on canvas

Gillian Wearing
Self portrait, 2000
C-print

Jordan Wolfson
Neverland, 2011
DVD, 4' 5"

Aaron Young
Untitled (Red single) Solfatara, 2008
acrylic and burnt rubber on aluminium



TECHNICAL SHEET

Title:	<i>CARA DOMANI opere dalla collezione Ernesto Esposito</i>
Curator:	Caroline Corbetta
External coordination:	Giuliana Picarelli
Organisation:	ORA S.r.l. MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna
Exhibition venue:	MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna via Don Minzoni 14, 40121 Bologna
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Opening hours:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 12 pm – 6 pm Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, holidays 12 pm – 8 pm
Admission:	full price € 6; reduced price € 4
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Guided tours	for groups booking is obligatory ph. +39 051 6496628 / 611 mamboedu@comune.bologna.it special guided visit € 4 for person guided visits for groups (max 30 people) € 80 visits in other languages € 10
School workshops:	workshops for all grades: € 100 (including a guided tour without audioguide) ph. (+39) 051 6496626 / 628 mamboedu@comune.bologna.it
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