

## PRESS RELEASE

### *That's IT!*

*On the newest generation of artists in Italy and one meter eighty from the border*

Curated by Lorenzo Balbi

MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

22 June - 11 November 2018

MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna will be opening its new seasons in the main venue - Sala delle Ciminiere - with *That's IT! On the newest generation of artists in Italy and one meter eighty from the border*, an exhibition curated by **Lorenzo Balbi** and showcasing works by **56 artists and collectives** born in 1980 or later, an exploratory journey through different media and languages.

Clearly generational in tone, the exhibition explores the latest developments of art in Italy, consistently with the specific position that MAMbo decided to take on the Italian and international scene by giving each one of its venues a distinct scientific identity.

In this scenario, the Museum owns and expands the bent that has traditionally made it one of the 'go-to' places, and, for the exhibitions in the Sala delle Ciminiere, it gives priority to **research into the new generations, experimental media and young artists** that have never been seen in Italy before. It also focuses on the **production of new works**, not least to expand its permanent collection: a lot of the works on display will actually be made for the occasion.

*That's IT!* (IT as the EU code that stands for Italy) deliberately chooses not to revolve around a single, monolithic concept, instead it comes up with **questions, potential perceptions of the contemporary world** from an **open, dialectic, magmatic perspective**. Does it still make sense nowadays to speak of an "Italian" artist? What defines "Italian-ness"? Does such definition have consequences on an artist's self-representation? Where and how do we put the generational boundary?

The exhibition offers some cues. It includes artists born in Italy and working in Italy; born in Italy and working abroad; born in Italy and working both in Italy and abroad; born abroad and working in Italy; born abroad and working abroad but who have studied in Italy. Such a wide variety of potential combinations of birthplaces, places to study and places to work in is the epitome of a **fluidity that shies away from barriers and easy labels**, which we can sense in the subtitle of the exhibition, from *Arte e confini* by Bruno Munari (Codice ovvio, 1971): "*In italia l'arte ha da essere italiana / in polonia polacca / in turchia turca e se un turco va a dipingere in polonia / che arte ha da fare? / e se la polonia occupa la turchia? in italia arte italiana e a un metro e ottanta dal confine francese? / in italia arte italiana / in sicilia siciliana / in piemonte piemontese / a milano milanese / e in corso garibaldi 89? / in italia l'arte ha da*

*essere arte / in polonia arte / l'etichetta verrà dopo*” (“In Italy art must be Italian / in Poland Polish / in Turkey Turkish and if a Turk paints in Poland / what art shall he do? / what if Poland occupies Turkey? In Italy Italian art and one metre eighty centimetres from the French border? / In Italy Italian art / in Sicily Sicilian art / in Piedmont Piedmontese art / in Milan Milanese art / and in Corso Garibaldi 89? / in Italy art must be art / in Poland art must be art / the label will come later”).

A similarly **open attitude** was the one taken by the curator: the artists did not have any restraints in terms of subjects or media, but they were asked to put themselves on the line by showcasing their **own subjectivity**, reasoning together on the concept of **self-representation**, and eventually select the works that they thought best embodied the way they defined themselves.

The only limit that was strictly put down and enforced was the age, to give prominence and visibility to those artists who have only lately made their debut on the art scene: actually none of them was born before 1980.

The exhibition paints an overview of **Millennial Generation**, the first one to go through endless adjustments to the frenzied evolution of technology, constant hyper-connectivity, and, socially, an increasing uncertain professional world, in a bleak economic climate. A generation that has left behind the certainties and ideologies of the older ones to embrace ways of expressing themselves that question the present and try to investigate the contemporary world, instead of giving answers.

The artists and collectives that will be taking part in *That's IT! On the newest generation of artists in Italy and one meter eighty from the border* are the following, from the older to the younger one:

Matilde Cassani (1980), Giuseppe De Mattia (1980), Margherita Moscardini (1981), Michele Sibiloni (1981), Riccardo Benassi (1982), Ludovica Carbotta (1982), Danilo Correale (1982), Andrea De Stefani (1982), Giulio Squillacciotti (1982), Marco Strappato (1982), Carlo Gabriele Tribbioli (1982), Ian Tweedy (1982), Invernomuto (Simone Trabucchi, 1982 and Simone Bertuzzi, 1983), Francesco Bertocco (1983), Giovanni Giaretta (1983), Lorenzo Senni (1983), Alberto Tadiello (1983), IOCOSE (Filippo Cuttica, 1983, Davide Prati, 1983, Matteo Cremonesi, 1984 and Paolo Ruffino, 1984), Elia Cantori (1984), Giulio Delvè (1984), Elena Mazzi (1984), Diego Tonus (1984), Calori&Maillard (Violette Maillard, 1984 and Letizia Calori, 1986), Federico Antonini (1985), Alessio D'Ellena (1985), Nicolò Degiorgis (1985), Riccardo Giacconi (1985), Adelita Husni-Bey (1985), Diego Marcon (1985), Ruth Beraha (1986), Elisa Caldana (1986), Roberto Fassone (1986), Francesco Fonassi (1986), Petrit Halilaj (1986), Andrea Kvas (1986), Beatrice Marchi (1986), The Cool Couple (Niccolò Benetton, 1986 and Simone Santilli, 1987), Filippo Bisagni (1987), Benni Bosetto (1987), Lia Cecchin (1987), Alessandro Di Pietro (1987), Stefano Serretta (1987), Giulia Cenci (1988), Tomaso De Luca (1988), Julia Frank (1988), Marco Giordano (1988), Orestis Ma-

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vroudis (1988), Valentina Furian (1989), Parasite 2.0 (Stefano Colombo, 1989, Eugenio Cosentino, 1989 and Luca Marullo, 1989), Alice Ronchi (1989), Emilio Vavarella (1989), Irene Fenara (1990), Angelo Licciardello (1990) & Francesco Tagliavia (1992), Caterina Morigi (1991), Margherita Raso (1991), Guendalina Cerruti (1992).

The works on display at MAMbo, which include **installations, videos, photography, sound art, sculptures, performances, paintings, works on paper**, will be set in an **open layout**, with no barriers, that appropriates and contaminates all the areas of the Museum: even the big glass windows that visually connect the Sala delle Ciminiere to the permanent collections upstairs will lose their screens, for an easier interaction between the two areas, and the outer glass windows of the building will be used too.

So, the exhibition hall will not be the only place where these works will be seen: *That's IT!* will spread into many areas of the Museum, among which the Education Department spaces and CorrainiMAMbo artbookshop, even outside of it, with art installations in the adjoining **Giardino del Cavaticcio** where, during the opening on Thursday 21 June, Lorenzo Senni will play the live set *Persona* at 10 pm. Furthermore a series of film works will be screened at **Cinema Lumière**, in partnership with **Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna**. The exhibition public program will be developed with further initiatives that will contribute to deepen the critical debate on the practices of young artists in our country.

Such physical spaces will be supported by the **Instagram profile of MAMbo**, which will be opened to coincide with the unveiling of the exhibition and will be managed as a virtual exhibition venue, as if it were part of the real space of the museum, where the artists' works will be on display.

The mediation activities designed by MAMbo Educational Department propose the thematic format *The fabulous' 80s* aimed at girls and boys aged 12 and up and an adult audience. Ten appointments to observe and closely know each time a different work, in which the year of birth of the artist, from 1980 to 1989, becomes a pretext to relive the atmosphere and events of that period. The Department educators are also actively involved in the realization of workshops that see the teens participating in the Summer Camps of the Istituzione Bologna Musei interacting side by side with the artists **Irene Fenara** and **Adelita Husni-Bey**.

A book by **Edizioni MAMbo** will be published for *That's IT!*, with **official pieces** by Matteo Lepore and Roberto Grandi and **essays** musing on the concept of generations in art, first the one by the curator, Lorenzo Balbi, followed by articles commissioned to: Lucia Aspesi, Giorgina Bertolino and Vittoria Martini, Lucrezia Calabrò Visconti and Gabriele Tosi (with a note by Serena Osti), Michele D'Aurizio, Chris Fitzpatrick, Pavel Pyš and Kate Strain (three people talking), Caterina Molteni, Fabiola Naldi, Marta Papini, Cesare Pietroiusti, Andrea Viliani. In addition, the book contains Stefano Vittorini's interviews with Alberto Garutti, Giulio Paolini, Giuseppe Pen-

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ne and Michelangelo Pistoletto. A special section deals with the **artists** who, as in an additional exhibition venue, have designed works for the occasion, printed on separate pages that can be put together at random, turning the book into a sort of exhibition-within-the-exhibition.

*That's IT! On the newest generation of artists in Italy and one meter eighty from the border* has been supported by the main sponsor **Gruppo Hera** that, confirming its support to an important institution like MAMbo, wanted to reward, in particular, an initiative that recognizes space and protagonism to new generations of artists. Indeed the exhibition expresses a tension to innovation in which even multiutility - attentive to technological evolution and to contemporary languages - has always been recognized.

Art, the young generations and a look at the future of our country: these are the three significant ingredients that encompass the essence and strength of the support provided by the **Unipol Group** as sponsor to the realization of *That's IT!*

The exhibition project is also supported by the **Regione Emilia-Romagna**.

MAMbo would like to thank **Biografilm Festival - the International Celebration of Lives** for the collaboration of Lorenzo Senni's Live Set in Biografilm Park and the students of the Biografilm School for the realization of a video on the installation project as part of the Creative Content Lab training program.

The exhibition is part of **Bologna Estate**, the summer programme of events promoted and coordinated by the Municipality of Bologna.

Curatorial assistants: **Sabrina Samorì** and **Stefano Vittorini**.

**General information:**

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