



## PRESS RELEASE

### CARA DOMANI opere dalla collezione Ernesto Esposito

curated by Caroline Corbetta

MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna  
29<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 compulsiveness.

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 Creed)*, 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 is 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, 27<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon within the exhibition spaces on the museum's ground floor.

The **vernissage** will take place on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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

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# MAMbo

Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

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**We wish to thanks:**

Eduardo Dorrego  
Marcello Capaldo  
Tim Jansen  
Suresh Nishantha  
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 drowing 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 (withe 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**

*Injudan 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, monocal, 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</i> <i>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
Exhibition dates:	29 <sup>th</sup> September – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2012
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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Catalogue:	Edizioni Corraini
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MAMbo is supported by:	Regione Emilia-Romagna Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna
Partnership with:	UniCredit