

PRESS RELEASE

La Grande Magia

Selected Works from the UniCredit Art Collection

curated by Gianfranco Maraniello and Walter Guadagnini in collaboration with Bärbel Kopplin

MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna

20 October 2013 – 16 February 2014

Opening 19 October 2013

From 20 October 2013 to 16 February 2014, the **MAMbo – Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna** and **UniCredit** are presenting *La Grande Magia. Selected Works from the UniCredit Art Collection*, a major exhibition that is bringing the masterpieces and more significant works of one of the most important corporate collections in Europe together in the rooms of the Bolognese museum. The exhibition, curated by Gianfranco Maraniello – director of the MAMbo – and Walter Guadagnini – chairman of the UniCredit Artistic Commission – in collaboration with Bärbel Kopplin – curator of the HypoVereinsbank–UniCredit Bank AG Collection – turns around the idea of **magic** as a “thread” running through the history of art. Magic understood as the process of bringing material to life and turning it into a work of art, as the ability to take hold of reality in images, as the symbolic force of non-scientific knowledge that intervenes in the tangible world: magic as a form of seduction of the gaze.

This search within the course of development of Western art – from the 16th century onwards – for the beguiling shadows of things that elude rational classification – the mystery, the symbol, the secret – has led to the selection of 90 works from the UniCredit Collection, divided up into eight thematic areas: *The Modern Magician and Ancient Painting, Any Enchantment is Magic, The Whale's Vertebra, Recipe Books, Bodies and Crucibles (1 and 2), Language and the Rules of the Game, Pygmalion's Workshop, Twelve Washing Machines and the Breakdown of Order, The Illusion of Necromancy*. The exhibition starts with the oldest works, including Dosso Dossi's *Psiche abbandonata da Amore* (1525), Antonio Carneo's *Aracne tesse la tela* (better known as *L'Indovina*, c. 1660), Marco Ricci's *Architekturcapriccio* (1700) and Jean Baptiste Greuze's *Die Klagen der Uhr* (1775), presented in dialogue with an assortment of books on “magic” from the same period lent by the **Biblioteca comunale dell'Archiginnasio** in Bologna, and ends with works by the most recent generations of contemporary artists – from Christian Marclay to Grazia Toderi, from Markus Schinwald to Clare Strand, Elina Brotherus, Jeppe Hein, Beate Gütschow and Hans Op de Beeck – passing through masters like Gustav Klimt, Giorgio de Chirico, Fernand Léger, Edward Weston, Kurt

Schwitters, Yves Klein, Arnulf Rainer, Georg Baselitz, Gerhard Richter, Peter Blake, Christo, Günter Brus, Mimmo Jodice, Gilberto Zorio, Giulio Paolini, Richard Long, Candida Höfer, Giuseppe Penone, Fischli and Weiss and Shirin Neshat, to mention just a few.

Specific reflections, which run through the entire length of the exhibition, concern the main technological innovations that have resulted in irreversible changes in the human imagination and the processes of art: the invention of printing, the advent of photography and the birth of the cinema, with the possibilities they have opened up for artists. To the old texts of the first section are added a broad selection of photographic works from the **FOTOGRAFIS** collection of UniCredit Bank Austria AG (on display in Salzburg) and a number of vintage films (Lumière Brothers, George Méliès, Jean Cocteau), made available thanks to the collaboration with the **Fondazione Cineteca of Bologna**.

The layout of the exhibition in the imposing volumes of the MAMbo's Sala delle Ciminiere and the surrounding spaces is not intended to oblige the visitor to follow a pre-established route, but to heighten the encounter between the works and the distinctive characteristics of the setting, creating, right from the first room, the illusion of entering a magical space, in which surprise is accompanied by a sense of disorientation and mystery.

A number of important European museums which have works on display by virtue of agreements with UniCredit have made them available for the exhibition. Among them: the Albertina in Vienna (Klimt), the Museum der Moderne in Salzburg (Fotografis collection), the MACRO and MAXXI in Rome (Arienti, Zorio, Paolini and Op de Beeck) and the Neues Museum in Nuremberg (Hein).

The co-production of the exhibition *La Grande Magia. Selected Works from the UniCredit Art Collection* is a continuation of the collaboration that has seen the MAMbo and UniCredit working together in support of art since 2007, the year in which they established a partnership to manage the section of the museum's Permanent Collection entitled 'Focus on Contemporary Italian Art', with the intention of producing, promoting and collecting contemporary Italian art. Under the auspices of this partnership the MAMbo has acquired for variable periods of time works by Emanuele Becheri, Elia Cantori, Loris Cecchini, Daniela Comani, Diamante Faraldo, Lara Favaretto, Eva Frapiccini, Giulio Frigo, Luisa Lambri, Eva Marisaldi, Adrian Paci, Luca Pancrazzi, Simone Pellegrini, Luca Pozzi, Luigi Presicce, Riccardo Previdi, Davide Rivalta, Pietro Ruffo, Elisa Sighicelli, Sissi, Alessandra Tesi, Davide Tranchina and Patrick Tuttofuoco. The partnership between the museum and UniCredit has also led to the

important acquisition of *Sala F*, a work by Massimo Bartolini that has long been exhibited in the educational area of the International Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

To coincide with the opening of *La Grande Magia. Selected Works from the UniCredit Art Collection*, a **catalogue** is being published (Editrice Compositori) reproducing all the works on display, with critical essays by the curators and scholars who have reflected on the theme of the exhibition: Federico Barbierato, Marco Pasi and Antonio Somaini.

In parallel to the exhibition, fourteen **Bolognese institutions** – Museo Civico Archeologico, Museo Civico Medievale, Collezioni Comunali d'Arte, Museo Civico del Risorgimento, Cimitero Monumentale della Certosa, Museo Internazionale e Biblioteca della Musica, Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio, Palazzo Magnani (the location of UniCredit's head offices in Bologna), Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna (Cinema Lumière), Genus Bononiae (Palazzo Fava and Palazzo Pepoli), Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna, Bologna Magica and Centro di Poesia Contemporanea of Bologna University – are proposing their own initiatives – exhibitions, itineraries, performances, meetings and screenings – in which the theme of the magical encounters art, music, literature and history.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition the MAMbo Educational Department will be organising guided tours, workshops and activities specifically studied for children and adults.

The **MAMbo** is **Bologna's Museum of Modern Art**, an exhibition venue devoted to visual culture and experimentation, a centre of production and a critical workshop of interdisciplinary contemporary culture housed since 2007 in the historic building of the Ex Forno del Pane (former municipal Bakery). The museum's **Permanent Collection** retraces the history of Italian art from the end of the Second World War to the present day viewed from the perspective of the former Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna. Since November 2012 the seat of the MAMbo has also housed the collections of the **Museo Morandi**, the largest and most important public collection of Giorgio Morandi's works. The museum stages **extensive monographic exhibitions** devoted to major Italian and foreign artists, adopting a viewpoint open to research and the dialectic between the works and the context of their display.

The **UniCredit Art Collection**, which comprises the collections of art that the various banks absorbed by the group have built up over time, is an expression of UniCredit's European identity. To all intents and purposes this important heritage, consisting of around 60,000 works, most of them

from the modern and contemporary era, is an asset representing a valuable part of the group's identity and bearing witness to the ties with the local fabric and longstanding commitment to the promotion of culture shared by all the banks that belong to it.

The collection has been made accessible to the public through long-term loans to partner museums and institutions in Italy and abroad, travelling exhibitions in the various countries where the group is present and displays in the building and branches of the group.

For more information:

www.mambo-bologna.org

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