



PRESS RELEASE | Torino, 13 May 2021

ARTISSIMA 2021

The 28th edition of the fair, directed for the fifth year by Ilaria Bonacossa, takes place from 5 to 7 November 2021. Hybrid, experimental, with an accent on quality, to narrate the “countertime” of art.

Artissima, the **International Fair of Contemporary Art in Torino**, announces the upcoming appointment with the **28th edition** of the fair, the only one in Italy with an exclusive focus on contemporary art, directed for the fifth consecutive year by **Ilaria Bonacossa**.

In 2020, Artissima reacted to the problematics of the pandemic with exceptional energy and speed, giving rise to a hybrid event that responded to the needs of the exhibiting galleries while at the same time conserving the experimental character of a programme of great commercial and cultural quality. Relying on this experience and all the know-how developed for this complex situation, **Artissima 2021 will be organised as a sophisticated combination of the physical and digital guises.**

From **Friday 5 to Sunday 7 November 2021**, the large, luminous spaces of the **Oval in Torino** will welcome the four historic sections of the fair – **Main Section, New Entries, Dialogue/Monologue** and **Art Spaces & Editions** – and the public, in line with the high standards of safety Artissima is capable of offering, in compliance with the current rules and recommendations at the moment of the opening.

Artissima XYZ – the digital platform that since 2020 has hosted the three curated sections of the fair, **Present Future, Back to the Future** and **Disegni** – will be visible **online from 4 to 9 November 2021**, alongside the physical presence of three exhibitions set up in the fair pavilion.

Artissima 2021 takes form in an anomalous time frame, often perceived and defined as one of “suspension” and “standstill”, although it inexorably continues to produce new visions, ideas, ways of acting and reacting. The impact of critical times prompts activation of a change of pace that is manifested in the need to transform fragility into force through creative imagination. Hence the desire to **dedicate the 28th edition of the fair to the concept of Controtempo**. The idea of “countertime” comes from the world of music, and is applied here as a metaphor of art’s ability to shift rhythmical accents, transforming weak beats into strong points and creating a contrast between voices. A dynamic impulse that generates new visual rhythms with the necessary timing and pauses, triggering syncopation and interstitial movement.

“Art – Ilaria Bonacossa explains – has always operated in an ‘emotional and formal countertime’ thanks to intuitions that foreshadow the future, altering the trajectories of our view of reality, disrupting paradigms and opening to unpredictable yet unavoidable interpretations and perspectives. Seen in this light, the history of art is composed of a polyphony of parts, tempo and counter-tempo, fused in a unique, surprising symphony. A symphony to which Artissima wants to continue to contribute in its writing.”

NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2021

The first **new features** of Artissima 2021 are the entry as a Main Partner of **Intesa Sanpaolo**, the arrival of **three new members of the curatorial and selection committees**, the introduction of

updated themes for the curated sections hosted online at **Artissima XYZ**, and the **new graphic image** to make this edition even more recognisable.

INTESA SANPAOLO: THE NEW MAIN PARTNER OF ARTISSIMA

After a partnership project launched in 2020, **Artissima** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Intesa Sanpaolo** as a **Main Partner** of the fair.

Artissima and Intesa Sanpaolo share the idea that art is a fundamental driver to reactivate virtuous mechanisms of social dynamism and cultural enrichment.

*“In a logic of growing attention in our Cultural Project regarding the promotion of modern and contemporary art – says **Michele Coppola**, Executive Director for Art, Culture and Heritage of Intesa Sanpaolo – we are renewing and reinforcing our collaboration with Artissima in Torino. Our commitment centres on our proprietary art collections, the Gallerie d’Italia and Torino, and the upcoming opening of the new museum of Intesa Sanpaolo at Palazzo Turinetti moves in this direction, concentrating on photography and the digital world. The major project of Piazza San Carlo, also thanks to the work with Artissima, will contribute to confirm the role of Torino as one of the most outstanding cities for contemporary art.”*

THE COMMITTEES

The **selection committee of the galleries** taking part in the *Main Section, New Entries, Dialogue/Monologue* and *Art Spaces & Editions* involves an international team of gallerists composed of Isabella Bortolozzi, Galerie Isabella Bortolozzi of Berlin, Paola Capata, Monitor Art Gallery in Roma, Lisbon and Pereto, Raffaella Cortese, Galleria Raffaella Cortese in Milano, Nikolaus Oberhuber, KOW Gallery in Berlin, and Alessandro Pasotti, Galleria P420 in Bologna, now joined by a **new member: Philippe Charpentier** of the gallery Mor Charpentier in Paris.

Caterina Avataneo, an independent curator based in London and Torino, will be the new curatorial consultant for the *New Entries* section, set aside for young galleries open for less than five years that are taking part in Artissima for the first time.

ARTISSIMA XYZ

The three curated sections – **Present Future** curated by Ilaria Gianni and Fernanda Brenner, **Back to the Future** curated by Lorenzo Giusti and Mouna Mekouar, and **Disegni** curated by Bettina Steinbrügge and Lilou Vidal, a new member of the curatorial team of the section – will exist for the second consecutive year on the cross-media platform **Artissima XYZ**, an experience that will be enhanced in 2021 by a physical group show in the fair pavilion. **Artissima XYZ**, with the support of **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**, stems directly from Artissima Digital, the digital eco-system of the fair since 2017.

The **curated sections** *Present Future*, *Back to the Future* and *Disegni* will exist in a cross-media space capable of going beyond the classic structure of the viewing room and digital catalogues, offering fresh experiential contents through which to explore the work of all the main players involved: galleries, artists, curators. **Three sections, thirty artists for thirty galleries, ten for each section:** each curatorial team – through constant, stimulating research and dialogue with the galleries – will select for their section ten original projects by ten artists presented by their galleries of reference, in keeping with a precise thematic vision.

For the 2021 edition, Artissima XYZ will also present three physical exhibitions at the Oval, one for each section, with works selected from each of the participating galleries.

Present Future

Present Future, the section on rising talents, preferably under 40 years of age, returns with the same curatorial team, composed of the independent curators and writers **Ilaria Gianni** and **Fernanda Brenner**.

In their words: “Referencing mystery and mystical ideas, **Present Future 2021** aims to stage a counter-argument for reducing the world to facts, descriptions, and projects. The section will look into the unknown, underscoring our subjectivity and investigating what lies between the expressible and the inexpressible. Art provides another model to expand our senses, and Present Future will offer a showcase for artists driven by the awareness that the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts”.

Back to the Future

The curatorial team of **Back to the Future** has also been confirmed, composed of the Director of the GAMeC – Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea of Bergamo **Lorenzo Giusti** and the independent art critic and curator **Mouna Mekouar**. The section contains monographic projects on outstanding pioneers of contemporary art of the last century still active today. This year’s focus is on works created since 1960 in dialogue with recent pieces from 2020.

The team explains: “Within the progress of the new millennium, 2020 has inserted itself as a gap. A hiatus, a time of freedom. In this context, the section **Back to the Future 2021** will attempt to explore the output of artists of the 20th century, juxtaposed with works created in the year 2020. Active during the last century, these artists – with freedom, and in a personal perspective – will evoke their present, transferring their experience of being in the here and now, in a present world. A present that opens into a new millennium”.

Disegni

The curatorial team of **Disegni** sees the entry this year of **Lilou Vidal**, an independent curator and editor based in Brussels and Torino, together with **Bettina Steinbrügge**, director of the Kunstverein of Hamburg and managing director of Kunstmeile Hamburg. Disegni is the section of Artissima that presents monographic projects on the most contemporary experimentation with the practice of drawing, originally associated with paper but now in a phase of transformation.

In their words: “The **Disegni 2021** section underlines the polymorphic aspects of drawing, through the sarcastic and poetic narratives and practices of ten artists from different generations and geographies. In the context of reflection on the contemporary world, the section will investigate how artists have made use of humorous or grotesque scenarios as an alternative and speculative form of empowerment to avoid the aberrations of reality (or the tragedy of existence)”.

THE NEW GRAPHIC DESIGN

The coordinate image for 2021 has been assigned for the fourth year to the Torino-based graphic design studio **FIONDA**. “The constant flow of images we receive on an everyday basis, if seen from different angles and perspectives, present us with and reveal new realities. We have a need to be surprised by revelatory fragments that remind us of the existence of other modes of registering everything that surrounds us.

The mirror is the tool that allows us to look at what our eyes cannot see; its reflection is always a discovery, a vision of a previously invisible and unknown reality. Not one single truth, then, not one single now: an instant after, or an instant before: pluralities, polyrhythms. To move in advance, or to slide back into a slight, intentional postponement. Asynchronies, diachronies.

Just as a strong accent grants greater impulse to a weak tempo, mirrors reveal mysteries and pay tribute to new truths. Not a magic spell to reassemble the world, not a certain final image. Simply new perspectives, new gazes. *Controtempo*”.

Artissima // Artissima is Italy's leading fair of contemporary art. Since its founding in 1994, it has combined presence on the international market with a vivid focus on experimentation and research.

The fair is managed by Artissima srl, a company affiliated with Fondazione Torino Musei. The Artissima trademark belongs to Regione Piemonte, Città Metropolitana di Torino and Città di Torino. The 28th edition of Artissima is produced with the support of the three trademark holders, in collaboration with Fondazione CRT, Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Camera di commercio di Torino.

ARTISSIMA – International Fair of Contemporary Art

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Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | Youtube: ArtissimaFair

Oval, Lingotto Fiere Torino

4 November 2021 | preview

5–7 November 2021 | open to public

Artissima XYZ

1–3 November 2021 | preview

4–9 November 2021 | online

Main Partner

INTESA  **SANPAOLO**

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