



# Focus Italy

Hosting the 7th edition of the international Biennale Manifesta, which takes place in Trentino-South Tyrol, Italy represents one of the most appealing world attractions, thanks to its art history and its landscape.

But what happens when you talk about contemporary art?

Does Italy only offer the artworld the Venice Biennale?

On this occasion, *Flash Art* has posed one question: is Italy a country for contemporary art? And if so, who are and who have been its major protagonists over the past 20 years?

Focus Italy seeks to answer this question through a survey on contemporary Italian art.

Hans Ulrich Obrist and Carla Accardi "dig deep" into the past, from the Art Academy years in Sicily to the late '50s in Rome and her relationship with Luciano Fabro, Giulio Paolini and Lucio Fontana.

As one of the most representative Italian artists from the last generation, the work of Gino De Dominicis is mapped out in a text by Laura

Cherubini, providing an enlightening introduction to the artist's work. In this essay, the most recurrent themes in his work such as the "oxymoron and homoepathy," drawing, Indian philosophy and Sumerian art are examined, while accounts from friends and colleagues are collected.

As an introduction on contemporary Italian art, Giacinto Di Pietrantonio's text deals with the main protagonists of the '90s, through a journey which starts from Rome and Turin and arrives in Milan. From the Transavangarde artists' community to the link between art and architecture lately in Milan, Di Pietrantonio presents the artists' generation before the Vanessa Beecroft and Maurizio Cattelan phenomena exploded.

"Do you know why Italy is shaped like a boot?" Barbara Casavecchia discusses a selection of the most promising and talented artists from the younger generation who have been affected by a 'nostalgic' attitude towards their country.

The Artists Dictionary is a new survey on Italian

contemporary art, presenting a selection of 80 artists and mixing the most established with new talents.

Italian Directors of Museums and Foundations (MART, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea in Trento, GAMeC, Museion, PAN, MACRO, MAMBo, MAXXI, Fondazione Trussardi and Hangar Bicocca) give *Flash Art* their comments on Italian contemporary art institutions. What is still to be done?

Always with an eye on collecting, *Flash Art* interviews the most influential Italian collectors. Tullio Leggeri, Ernesto Esposito, Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Pierluigi Mazzari, Maurizio Morra Greco participate in this Focus Italy in order to define Italian artists and the Italian contemporary art system.

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