



## **Introduction to Banca di Roma Collection**

The UniCredit art collection was founded from those of the various banks which have since joined the UniCredit Group. This art collection is one of the richest and most prestigious in Europe today. As will be seen in the small selection present here, the UniCredit collection has been significantly enriched by the recent addition to this extraordinary nucleus of the Capitalia art collection, which was itself formed out of the Banco di Santo Spirito and the Banca di Roma collections.

Following the best traditions of institutional collecting in Italy, the Capitalia collection is centred around ancient art, especially 17th and 18th century painting with works by such leading artists as Giovanbattista Caracciolo, Giovanni Baglione, Agostino Tassi, Jan Miel, who all in their various ways artists, were influenced by Caravaggio, and who expressed a style which so popular in Rome and throughout Europe.

Palazzo De Carolis and the works of art it houses, represents an exemplary part of 18th century Roman culture, an authentic architectural and pictorial treasure trove and an important stage in reconstructing a cultural clime which, even today, has lost none of its charm.

However, the Banca di Roma collection does not just stop at these already outstanding examples of a distant past, but stretches right up the early and late 20th century, with high quality, historically important works produced by some of the most famous names in Italian and international 20th century art. Works by Giacomo Balla, Giorgio de Chirico, Felice Casorati, Giorgio Morandi, and Massimo Campigli not only open a door on early 20th century avant-garde art world but, above all, introduce what may be considered as the most significant and curious focal point of the modern collection, that is the 29 works by Antonio Donghi, the leading Italian artist of the 1930s. His "Magic Realism" marked an inimitable stage in 20th European art, someway between metaphysics and a return to formal classical values, a pathway set between amazing appearances of everyday events offering a constant source of surprises and wonder. Alongside Donghi, an early canvas by Capogrossi confirms the peculiarity of 1930s Roman painting which was one of the main chapters in Italian art between the wars.

Lastly, canvases by Matta, Guttuso, Marino, and Warhol, introduce post-war art, somewhere between social involvement and a recovery of reality, and act as a sort of go-between towards the growing contemporary section of the UniCredit Collection in that continuity from the past, the present to the future which characterizes the Group's commitment in the arts.

**Walter Guadagnini**

President the Scientific Commission of  
UniCredit & Art Project