

PRESS RELEASE

MAMbo and UniCredit Group Announce the Acquisition of Massimo Bartolini's *Sala F*, Commissioned by the Venice Biennale for the 53rd International Art Exhibition

For the Venice Biennale's 53rd International Art Exhibition, MAMbo, the Museum of Modern Art of Bologna, and UniCredit Group are proud to announce the acquisition of *Sala F*, an educational area installed in the newly renovated Palazzo delle Esposizioni, which was commissioned by the Biennale to Massimo Bartolini. The acquisition was made within the scope of the important partnership between MAMbo and UniCredit Group. Since 2007, through a joint initiative called "Focus on Contemporary Italian Art," they have sought to produce, promote and collect art created by young Italians. The core objective is not simply to build a shared collection, but to provide concrete support to artists in achieving success on the international scene through high-profile projects and programs, thus strengthening the Italian art scene.

Massimo Bartolini's work is part of a recent renovation project involving the exhibition ground's former Italian Pavilion, which will become the institution's new headquarters as well as an exhibition space where, for the first time, the Biennale will offer the public a permanent selection of services and activities. This new Palazzo delle Esposizioni, adjacent to the recently reopened ASAC Library, will have substantial visitor areas that include educational facilities, a bookshop and a restaurant and bar. Director David Birnbaum commissioned three of the artists featured at the Biennale – Rirkrit Tiravanija, Tobias Rehberger and Massimo Bartolini – to design and furnish these interior spaces.

Sala F was conceived to serve a variety of functions, ranging from its primary role as an educational space to various auxiliary uses, including as a meeting room, auditorium and cinema. *Sala F* was designed by Bartolini as a place of sharing, where three large tables can be arranged as needed and around which visitors can sit and interact comfortably. The space can also be transformed into theatre stalls, from which an audience can enjoy a show, or into a stage, upon which events and spectacles can be presented for public viewing.

Two luminous doors separate *Sala F* from the adjoining rooms, serving to bring focus to the space. The brightness of the room is carefully controlled through the placement of iridescent plexiglass panels that can be used to screen or cover the skylights. The room's intimacy and focus, as intended by the artist, foster personal interactions. As Bartolini

described it, "It is like children's drawings: a brown line at the bottom, a blue one on top, and the in-between is left blank for opportunities."

The acquisition of Bartolini's work signifies a stronger partnership between MAMbo and UniCredit Group, and the continuation of their unwavering support for Italian artists producing and staging ambitious international projects. This, in turn, enhances the growth and consolidation of Italy's art system.

According to the president of the Scientific Commission of UniCredit & Art, Professor Walter Guadagnini, "The Group's participation at the Biennale with the work by Bartolini captures its commitment to producing new works and to funding research and innovation, which includes the field of visual arts. Together with other institutions, our work focuses on the educational aspect of art as a crucial means for developing thought and individual potential, as well as for training future generations."

In the true spirit of their partnership, MAMbo and UniCredit Group chose to support this project specifically conceived for the world's preeminent contemporary art event, thus extending their efforts beyond museum walls. *Sala F* will remain at the Venice Biennale's Palazzo delle Esposizioni for the next 10 years, after which it will enter MAMbo's permanent collection.

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