

On Thursday 8 May at 6 p.m., the sixth edition of the EX exhibition project, curated by Carmen Lorenzetti and promoted by the Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna, will open to the public. The project aims to bring the history and memory of the academic institute back to the public's attention through the works of artists who trained within it and are now recognised nationally and internationally.

Since 2016, the EX project has presented the work of artists such as Riccardo Baruzzi, Giovanni Blanco, Pierpaolo Campanini, Jacopo Casadei, Paolo Chiasera, Cristian Chironi, Rudy Cremonini, Flavio de Marco, Andrea Facco, Michael Fliri, Andrea Galvani, Domenico Grenci, Enrico Minguzzi, Margherita Moscardini, Andrea Nacciarriti, Marco Neri, Alessandro Pessoli, Leonardo Pivi, Nicola Samorì, maintaining its exemplary value of bringing examples of success and representing an important encouragement for students. This year, the group show, hosted until 15 June 2025 in the Salone degli Incamminati of the Pinacoteca Nazionale in Bologna, presents a selection of works by six artists who graduated from the Academies of Fine Arts in Bologna, who share a generational point of view: Lorenzo di Lucido (1983), Nicola Melinelli (1988), Gianni Moretti (1978), Andrea Salvatori (1975), Vincenzo Simone (1980) and Cristiano Tassinari (1980).

The exhibition aims to reflect on the plurality of artistic practices that characterise our contemporaneity, through painting, sculpture and public art. Different strategies are used in the works, but the exhibition display highlights a certain air of kinship, through the continuous cross-referencing of the works, which rotate and almost graft one into the path of the other. Three artists are painters: Lorenzo Di Lucido constructs monochrome surfaces that seem to be scratched into the surface, building like territories seen from above; Vincenzo Simone uses a dense, intense figuration with continuous internal-external cross-references; Nicola Melinelli forces the limits of abstraction with irregular geometric surfaces polished with bright colours; Cristiano Tassinari, painter and sculptor, investigates the banal image and the clichés of Italian-ness through refined paintings and multi-material sculptures. Andrea Salvatori, a true virtuoso of ceramics, constructs visual paradoxes and analogical references to our contemporaneity, such as Terzo Paesaggio that are clods of the tortured lands of Romagna.

Finally, Gianni Moretti designs a metal mandala: Anna - Monumento all'attenzione (promise) is constructed so that everyone can actively participate in the memory of the massacre at Sant'Anna di Stazzema: visitors can take home a thistle if they promise to plant it at the site of the slaughter. Finally, Chapters of a Monument by Moretti revises the concept of monument, which suddenly becomes fragile, precious, delicate in opposition to the overbearing and marble-like idea of imperishable public art of yesteryear.

The project is accompanied by a catalogue by NFC edizioni with contributions by art historian and lecturer Alfonso Panzetta and Carmen Lorenzetti. There will also be a workshop held by Cristiano Tassinari, who will return to the classrooms where he studied, in particular to the chair of Massimo Pulini, to symbolically return his experience to the artists of the future, creating a virtuous and fertile short-circuit.

Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna, Salone degli Incamminati

Via delle Belle Arti, 56, Bologna

Opening: Thursday 8 May, 6-8 pm

Hours: Tuesday to Sunday and holidays 9am-7pm; closed Mondays. Last entrance 30 minutes before closing.

Admission: free