

# **Pictura Magistra Vitae. I nuovi simboli della pittura contemporanea/Painting, life's teacher. The new symbols of contemporary painting.**

curated by Vittoria Coen  
San Giorgio in Poggiale, Bologna  
17 January 2003 - 6 March 2003

Like a surfer the artist crosses the waves of movement - from Informal Art to Pop Art, from Conceptual Art to the Transavanguardia - in order to describe his/her own game of symbols and icons of our times. The 'Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna' Foundation promotes and organizes the exhibition "Pictura Magistra Vitae. I nuovi simboli della pittura contemporanea/Painting, life's teacher. The new symbols of contemporary painting", curated by Vittoria Coen at San Giorgio in Poggiale, a Baroque church in the historical centre of the city, which is also venue of the Art and History Collections of the 'Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna' Foundation. The exhibition holds thirty-six works made between the mid 1970s and now. **It is mostly never seen before works**, some of which are made especially for the exhibition. On display there are twelve artists from Europe and the United States: **Donald Baechler, Ross Bleckner, James Brown, Sandro Chia, Francesco Clemente, Eric Fischl, Alex Katz, Milan Kunc, Aldo Mondino, David Salle, Salvo and Philip Taaffe.**

After the experience of the Conceptual Movement - during the 1960s and part of the following decade - which almost completely eliminated the subject from its own creative experience, new ideas were born, even artistic movements (such as, for example, the Italian and international Transavanguardia) of which still today some echoes can be found in the last generations of artists (just think of the English Bad Painting). The outdated of the Informal Art Movement - Action Painting - linked to the second postwar period, and the birth of Pop Art are some of the most significant prior events able to describe the exhibition path which runs through two generations of artists in whose work will be appreciated the individuality and sensitivity of each one.

Some works are part of the recent purchases of the 'Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna' Foundation which is undertaking an important programme of increasing its own artistic collection in contemporary art. Also the Foundation aims to personally organize and promote large-scale cultural events about contemporaneity in Italy.

A thorough bilingual Italian/English catalogue completes the exhibition, with a presentation by the curator and art director Vittoria Coen, and an introduction by Philippe Daverio, as well as colour reproductions of the works on display; it is published by Editrice Compositori.