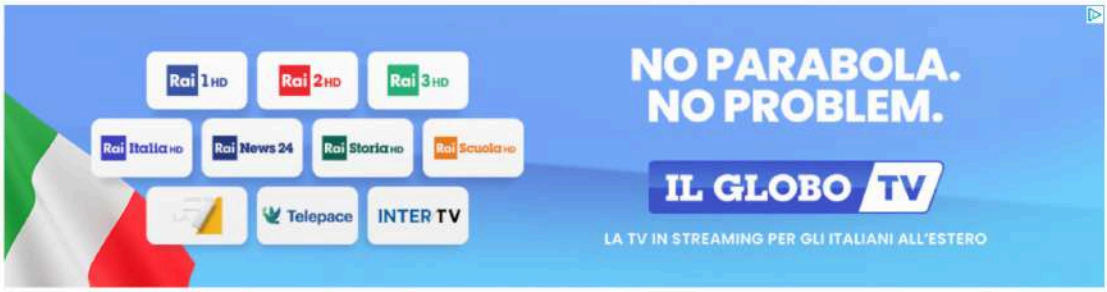

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Evolving identity and a fading mural: the living art of the new Italian scene

By Larissa Ronzoni
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The exhibition featuring 27 young artists born in the 1990s and 2000s opened at the Palacio Libertad. It's a project of the Milan Triennale and is touring Latin America.

Detail of the painting "A Bottle of Wine" by Giulia Mangoni (photo: Palacio Libertad)

BUENOS AIRES – Truly living art is that which is born in the present, that of those who create today, who influence and are influenced by everyday reality. It is art that breathes the air of our times, that reflects and makes us reflect on this historical moment.

In that spirit, the exhibition "Italian Painting Today: A New Scene" opened in Buenos Aires . This project brings to the Argentine capital the works of 27 young Italian artists under the age of 35, selected to represent the most dynamic and significant emerging art scene.

The exhibition, which can be visited at the Palacio Libertad (formerly the CCK, in the former Central Post Office building), is sponsored by the Milan Triennale, with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Italian Embassy in Buenos

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Aires, and the Italian Institute of Culture.

Italian Painting Today emerged from a group exhibition of the same name presented in 2023 at the Milan Triennale and is now available outside of Europe for the first time, showcasing—through pictorial language—the vitality, complexity, and richness of the new Italian art scene.

After its tour in Argentina, the exhibition will continue in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Mexico City.

Organized into five thematic sections, the exhibition addresses issues such as representation and self-representation, the connection with everyday objects, the fusion of languages, the reinvention of classical techniques, and the fluid dialogue between figuration and abstraction.

The result is a multifaceted yet cohesive—and above all, profoundly contemporary—portrait of Italian painting, seen through the eyes of a new generation of artists born between 1990 and 2000.

Ambassador Fabrizio Lucentini participated in the opening ceremony, visibly moved by this being his last official activity in Argentina.

The director of the Italian Institute of Culture, Livia Raponi, also expressed her gratitude for the support of the Embassy and the IIC team. She also dedicated a special mention to Giuliana Gentile, the cultural attaché responsible for organizing the opening and who also assisted with the installation process.

Curator Damiano Gullì, present at the event, highlighted the dialogue and collective construction carried out with the artists, many of whom produced new works specifically for this traveling project.

Among those present was painter Giulia Mangoni, author of a temporary mural—which will be erased at the end of the exhibition—inspired by her brief experience in Buenos Aires, where she visited the Matadero.

Her painting partially covers that temporary painting: "It's intentional, because I want there to be something reserved in what I illustrated on the wall," the artist explained. "During my brief trip, the taxi driver gave me a sticker of his soccer team, which features a bull on the crest. I stuck it as a good luck charm on the back of the painting, a little secret told in hushed tones, but which I didn't show to anyone."

In the works of these young artists, one can trace this search for intimacy within painting, in a world where private life seems always open to outside judgment. Their works question how people, everyday objects, and the culture that surrounds us define identity, both collective and individual.

Italian Painting Today. A New Scene presents itself not only as a showcase for evolving young Italian art, but also as a meeting place for different artistic languages in a shared dialogue.

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