

**MUTINA ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF A NEW EXHIBITION SPACE:**

**MUT**

Mutina HQ  
Fiorano (Modena) - Italy  
**25th September 2017**

MUT is a new exhibition space inside the headquarters of Mutina – an innovative company in the field of ceramic surfaces - which launches an ambitious project to showcase, promote and support contemporary art.

MUT – which means “courage” in German – refers to that creative courage which marks the free encounter between art and enterprise: the permanent space will be characterised by an annual programme of exhibitions and events, combined with several external initiatives in collaboration with institutions and international museums.

MUT represents one of the three sections of the wider project Mutina for Art – alongside the This is Not a Prize award and the Dialogue program of artistic productions – with the aim of narrating a corporate vision that supports contemporary art, making artists and their works its central focus.

**THINK OF THIS AS A WINDOW**

curated by Sarah Cosulich  
25.09.2017 – 23.02.2018

**MUT**

Fiorano (Modena) – Italy

**Works by:**

Etel Adnan, Vincenzo Agnetti, Giorgio Andreotta Calò, Tacita Dean, Fischli / Weiss, Ceal Floyer, Francesco Gennari, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, On Kawara, Renato Leotta, Sherrie Levine, Marisa Merz, Cindy Sherman, Ettore Spalletti, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Wolfgang Tillmans, Goran Trbuljak, Franco Vimercati, Franz Erhard Walther, Cerith Wyn Evans.

**Think of this as a Window** is the first exhibition of MUT, which symbolically inaugurates with a curated selection of artworks from the private collection of Mutina CEO, Massimo Orsini. The title – inspired by Cerith Wyn’s homonymous work – becomes the starting point of a show in which the window is not only an infinite space that opens to our eyes and questions, but also a path across time.

The exhibition develops over three rooms, like transitional chapters of an imaginary voyage through three fundamental genres of the historical artistic tradition: portrait, process and landscape. Along this path the works of twenty artists, among the major protagonists of the international scene, reveal different approaches to time: definite, eternal, symbolic, abstract, fluid, controlled, primordial, or specific. The theme of time is not so much the subject of the exhibition as an activator of reactions and connections.

In the first room, portraiture does not appear as mere reproduction of human features, but as depiction of personal psychologies and shared codes. Among these, the dates by On Kawara – stern and conceptual paintings – are a combined representation of his existing and being. These works connect with the self-portraits of Felix Gonzales-Torres, in which places and events processed by the artist’s memory trace his own self-image.

The room devoted to process, on the other hand, focuses on artists such as Fischli/Weiss and Sherrie Levine, who explore the limits and definitions of the artwork, through conceptual reflections on the systems and hierarchies that lie at the base of artistic creation.

Finally, the third room looks at landscape, from Hiroshi Sugimoto to Wolfgang Tillmanns, interpreting it as expression of a reality that is not necessarily physically represented, but comes to grip with existential space and the space of desire.

Think of this as a Window is an exhibition in which time interacts with the written word, with form, matter, light, colour and much more: it constitutes a structural compendium that reveals both the historical continuity of contemporary languages and the complex wealth and urgency of today's reflections.

Exhibition catalogue published by Mutina for Art.

#### **MUTINA FOR ART**

Mutina enters the world of contemporary art through an ambitious and multi-faceted project called Mutina for Art, which includes MUT - a dedicated exhibition space within its headquarters - This is Not a Prize - an important prize awarded annually - and Dialogue, a programme of collaborations with artists, galleries and partners as well as international artistic institutions. Sensibility towards form and a desire to innovate and incorporate the most heterogeneous visual inspirations of the present world, have been Mutina's features from its very beginning: now they develop further into a new program in which contemporary art is the absolute protagonist. Sarah Cosulich's involvement as curator coincides with the company's desire to give an articulated structure to its commitment towards contemporary art, making it a source of influence, experience and, above all, a territory of exchange.

#### **MUT: A NEW EXHIBITION SPACE**

If the company's production site is also symbolic of the birth of new ideas, it has been natural to imagine Mutina's headquarters as an ideal space for dialogue between the artworks, the company's identity and the people who daily carry it forward. Housed in a dedicated area inside the beautiful building designed in the Seventies by architect Angelo Mangiarotti, the exhibition space MUT is Mutina for Art's backbone, representing a challenge and an alternative model in contemporary exhibition making. MUT will alternate monographic and thematic projects, presentations of new acquisitions, site-specific works as well as loans. Attention will be given to some of the most important figures on the international contemporary art scene as well as to young artists, with the aim of offering quality exhibitions within a living and lived context. Open to the world which surrounds Mutina and also to the public who can freely visit the shows, MUT wishes to convey the company's passion and commitment to art. It also wishes to recognize that an investment in culture is not only an important means of communication, but also a way to boost the inner vision of those who support it.

#### **THIS IS NOT A PRIZE: A FLEXIBLE PRIZE**

This is Not a Prize is an innovative format aimed at supporting and promoting the work of emerging artists. The recognition offered by Mutina marks the beginning of the company's relationship with the chosen artist, which can develop according to the specific needs of his/her practice. Not merely an award, but Mutina's commitment to accompany and sustain a future project - from an exhibition, to a publication, to the production of a new work. This is Not a Prize rethinks the concept of the art award by creating flexible opportunities for artists and galleries and establishing a new dialogue between those who produce and those who create culture.

In 2016 this special "non-prize" was awarded during Artissima to artist Giorgio Andreotta Calò; subsequently Mutina sustained his project at the Italian Pavilion of the 57th Venice Biennale. **The winner of This is Not a Prize 2017 will be announced on October 18th at the Grand Palais in Paris, during FIAC.**

### **DIALOGUE: A SITE-SPECIFIC PROGRAM**

The Mutina for Art project is made up also by a versatile platform of contemporary initiatives aimed at accompanying the evolutions of the Mutina brand through itinerant artistic initiatives: the Dialogues. These collaborations will take shape through projects with artists, museums or institutions, as well as through site-specific works conceived for the future Mutina flagship-stores, with the aim of producing artworks which make experimental use of ceramics.

### **ABOUT MUTINA**

Mutina represents a brand-new way of looking at ceramics, which is no longer conceived as a material for tiles but as an interior design project. This artistic project combines technology with hand-crafted details and experimentations that transcend the limits of the materials, and indispensable research for innovation to ensure a high-quality product. Mutina works with designers such as Patricia Urquiola, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Rodolfo Dordoni, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Tokujin Yoshioka, Yael Mer and Shay Alkalay of Raw Edges, Inga Sempè, Konstantin Grcic, a team that shares the same passions and approach to a unique product based on continuous research.

### **ABOUT SARAH COSULICH**

Sarah Cosulich (1974) was trained in Washington D.C, Berlin and London and started her career with Francesco Bonami at the 50th Venice Biennale, working with artists such as Fischli/Weiss, Gabriel Orozco, Matthew Barney and Rudolf Stingel. She later worked as curator at the Villa Manin Centre for Contemporary Art Centre, where she organised exhibitions and special projects by over thirty artists including Carsten Hoeller, Pawel Althamer, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Damian Ortega, Tobias Rehberger, Monika Sosnowska, Tomas Saraceno. For Cardi Black Box Gallery in Milan she curated various shows, among which an important solo exhibition of German artist Thomas Bayrle. Cosulich has directed Artissima in Turin from 2012 to 2017, contributing to making the fair one of the most experimental and propositional exhibitions in the international contemporary scene, through the introduction of new ways of involving curators and collectors in the program, innovative formats and new sections - including one dedicated to performance. In 2014 she invited Maurizio Cattelan to curate the acclaimed SHIT AND DIE exhibition as part of Artissima's cultural program and in 2016 she curated Flying Home, the site-specific project by Thomas Bayrle at Turin Airport. Among her writings there are monographs dedicated to Jeff Koons (2006) and Gabriel Orozco (2008). At present Sarah Cosulich collaborates with some Italian and foreign universities, and is development advisor of Manifesta12, the European art biennial which in 2018 will take place in Palermo.

### **Press contacts**

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