



EMERGING TALENTS AWARD 2011

Following the success of the 2009 awards, the Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi (CCCS) presents the second *Emerging Talents*, a project comprising an exhibition and prize presenting and promoting the younger generation of successful Italian artists, aged between 25 and 35 years. The CCCS will show a representative selection of works by all 16 participating artists at Palazzo Strozzi, in Florence from **19 February to 1 May 2011**. The winner of the 2011 Emerging Talents Award will be announced at the opening of the exhibition on **18 February 2011**.

The project is intended to identify and foster those creative talents in Italy that have the potential to make an impact on the international contemporary art scene. At the same time, it is intended as an occasion for the visitor to engage with Italian contemporary art. The selected artists are considered to be some of the most talented young Italians whose work has been exhibited or has aroused the interest of galleries but not yet won the kind of recognition needed to attract the attention of a wider public. A broad spectrum of media will be on view, ranging from painting and graphic art to sculpture, installations, photography, video-art and new-media art.

The CCCS invited four Italian curators and directors of some of the most relevant Italian contemporary art institutions to each nominate four artists. This Committee comprised: Luca Massimo Barbero (director, MACRO, Rome), Chiara Bertola (director, HangarBicocca, Milan), Andrea Bruciati (director, Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea, Monfalcone) and Giacinto Di Pietrantonio (director, GAMEC, Bergamo).

The work of the 16 candidates will come before an international jury composed of Achim Borchardt-Hume (Whitechapel Gallery, London), Barbara Gordon (Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC) and Adam Szymczyk (Kunsthalle Basel). Rather than being based on the choice of any single work, the panel's decision rests on an analysis of the various creative avenues explored by the artist, taking into consideration his/her consistency, maturity, originality and impact. The prize will be a monographic publication devoted to the oeuvre of the winner, to be published by Silvana Editoriale, who will also produce the exhibition catalogue.

The artists nominated by Luca Massimo Barbero are: **Alessandro Ceresoli** (Romano di Lombardia, Bergamo, 1975), whose work, ranging from video-art to drawing, merges social action with historical reconstruction, or revisits literary sources and iconographic elements of varying origins; **Valentino Diego** (Ciriè, Turin, 1978), whose site-specific installations built with everyday materials often used in industrial construction work play with space and with our conventional forms of perception; **Giovanni Ozzola** (Florence, 1982), who uses photography and video to capture fleeting moments and rarified atmospheres in which an endless play of light creates evocative, suspended environments; and **Antonio Rovaldi** (Parma, 1975), whose multifaceted research is based on exploring the border between the physical and the mental, between the real and the imaginary in experiments in space and time based either on the artist's own life experience or offered directly to his audience.

Chiara Bertola has proposed: **Ludovica Carbotta** (Turin, 1982), who uses herself as the measure of urban and natural space, implementing a process involving the subjective construction and interpretation of place and of experience; **Loredana Di Lillo** (Gioia del Colle, Bari, 1979), who adopts a variety of different techniques, from drawing and collage to sculpture, to explore themes linked to the history and memory of self and of Western culture; the duo **Invernomuto** (Turin, 1982 and 1983), whose transmedial artistic experimentation teeters on the border between reality and the world of dreams; and **Margherita Moscardini** (Donoratico, Livorno, 1981), whose work can be described as the analytical portrayal of places and memories of spaces.

Andrea Bruciati has chosen: **Giorgio Andreotta Calò** (Venice, 1979), whose work is based on situations that straddle the border between participatory operation and direct architectural intervention; **Riccardo Benassi** (Cremona, 1982), whose installations act on sensations and the encounter between sound and matter; **Luca Francesconi** (Mantova, 1979), whose sculptural work draws on the shapes and symbols of tradition in an anthropological dimension, composing objects that hark back to the sacred rituals of agriculture and grassroots culture; and **Alberto Tadiello** (Montecchio Maggiore, Vicenza, 1983), whose work combines a reflection on the relationship between sculpture and technology, with an interest in the sculptural dimension of sound.

Giacinto Di Pietrantonio has put forward: **Meris Angioletti** (Bergamo, 1977), whose interest lies in exploring the fine line between art and science in her investigations into landscape and space, adopting an approach that combines scientific method with the creative process; **Rossana Buremi** (Augusta, Siracusa, 1975), whose works are an ironic take on erotic iconography, exploring such themes as today's obsession with the human body and the related senses of guilt and awareness; **Patrizio Di Massimo** (Jesi, Ancona, 1983), who uses a stratification of artistic vocabularies as a tool for reflecting on history and his own identity; and **Luigi Presicce** (Porto Cesareo, Lecce, 1976), a performance artist who combines the theatrical and the ritual in an ongoing allusion to grassroots culture.

The exhibition catalogue, in Italian and English, will offer the visitor a chance to explore in greater depth the artists' work through texts written by members of the Selection Committee.

For further information, artists' biographies, and images, please contact:

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FACT SHEET

Event/Exhibition:	Emerging Talents Award 2011
Nominated Artists:	<i>Luca Massimo Barbero:</i> Alessandro Ceresoli, Valentino Diego, Giovanni Ozzola, Antonio Rovaldi <i>Chiara Bertola:</i> Ludovica Carbotta, Loredana Di Lillo, Invernomuto, Margherita Moscardini <i>Andrea Bruciati:</i> Giorgio Andreotta Calò, Riccardo Benassi, Luca Francesconi, Alberto Tadiello <i>Giacinto Di Pietrantonio:</i> Meris Angioletti, Rossana Buremi, Patrizio Di Massimo, Luigi Presicce
Location:	Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi (CCCS) Palazzo Strozzi, 50123 Firenze, Italy
Public Information:	Tel. +39 055 2645155, www.strozzina.org , www.palazzostrozzi.org
Background:	Situated between Piazza Strozzi and via Tornabuoni in the heart of Florence, the Palazzo Strozzi is one of the finest examples of Renaissance domestic architecture. In recent years the Palazzo Strozzi, and in particular its magnificent courtyard, had fallen into disuse. The City of Florence, the Province, the Chamber of Commerce and an Association of private partners joined forces to create a public-private foundation in 2006. In July 2006 the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi was given responsibility for creating a lively programme of events in the Palazzo's public spaces including the grand rooms of the <i>piano nobile</i> on the first floor, the underground Strozzi and the magnificent <i>cortile</i> or courtyard.
Opening hours:	Tuesday to Sunday 10.00 to 20.00, Thursday 10.00 to 23.00 Monday closed
Tickets:	€5.00 multiple entry (up to five times in one month, including lectures) €4.00 (ATAF Travel card/ticket holders and Touring Club members) €3.00 for primary and secondary schoolchildren Combined ticket €10.00 Strozzi + Piano Nobile
How to get there:	By plane: Firenze Airport www.aeroporto.firenze.it , +39 (0) 55 306 1700 By car: From north (Milan) A1 Bologna, Firenze, Firenze Nord exit, follow directions for city. From south (Rome) A1 Roma, Milano, Firenze Sud exit, follow directions for city. By train: Nearest stations are; Stazione di Santa Maria Novella, Piazza del Duomo, Via Tornabuoni.
Access:	Lifts and wheelchair access to all areas.



EMERGING TALENTS 2011 *

FRANZISKA NORI - Director CCCS / RICCARDO LAMI - CCCS Organizational coordinator

Following the success of the first event, held in 2009, the Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi is presenting the second edition of *Emerging Talents*. Constituted by a prize and an exhibition, the initiative offers young Italian artists the opportunity to promote their work and gives the public and critics alike the chance to investigate Italy's contemporary art scene. The *Emerging Talents* project is an effective instrument and platform to launch and promote the work of young Italian artists.

We believe that working on a project with the aim of showcasing the excellence of young creativity is fundamental at a moment in history – and in a social climate – like that of Italy in recent years. The ability to invest in education, culture and research is crucial, representing a moment of truth for the very future of a national community that is facing the need to make the most effective decisions possible in order to keep up with other nations and avoid the progressive decline of its competitiveness with respect to the world and the global market. This problem is not merely Italian, but extends to Europe in general. Nevertheless, we must also note a specific Italian weakness and lack of far-sightedness in managing such a critical transition. Entire generations of young people have no possibilities for a future on what has become an international job market, due to an education that is unable to compete with that of their peers from other countries, as well as the dearth of professional growth opportunities in their homeland.

As a cultural project, *Emerging Talents* has not set itself the utopian goal of changing the roots of this situation, but attempts to apply a specific vision of the relationship between society and culture distinctive of an institution such as the Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi. Indeed, its very mission is to create a lifelong-learning approach that aspires to offer complete access to information and knowledge, rather than making them exclusive assets. The *Emerging Talents* project reflects the spirit of the CCC Strozzi and of the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi in general, aiming to serve as a cultural platform in a position to grasp artistic and cultural issues and trends that have a profound influence on the local territory, while also encouraging interest on a national and international level.

The artists who have been chosen are considered among the finest new talents on the Italian art scene but, despite the fact that art galleries and experts have acclaimed their work, they are not fully recognized yet by the general public. The sixteen artists chosen as candidates for the prize are presented in the *Emerging Talents 2011* exhibition at the CCC Strozzi (19 February – 1 May 2011) through a selection of their works, offering the public an opportunity to learn about new research and trends in Italian contemporary art. In the diversity of approaches and types of research it showcases, ranging from drawing and photography to installation art and video, the exhibition aims to present recent works by the selected artists that can testify to the point of development of their oeuvre and create a fascinating and stimulating itinerary for the public, offering visitors the opportunity to draw comparisons between extremely varied approaches to artistic research.

The participating artists were selected by a committee composed of four established Italian curators: Luca Massimo Barbero (MACRO, Rome), Chiara Bertola (HangarBicocca, Milan), Andrea Bruciati (Galleria Civica

d'Arte Contemporanea, Monfalcone) and Giacinto Di Pietrantonio (GAMEC, Bergamo). Each one chose four artists who, according to the regulations of this project, had to be Italians between the ages of 25 and 35. The winner of the *Emerging Talents 2011* prize was instead selected by an international jury composed of Achim Borchardt-Hume (Whitechapel Gallery, London), Barbara Gordon (Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.) and Adam Szymczyk (Kunsthalle Basel).

The jury chose the winner based on an overall analysis of the creative paths of the different artists, examining their coherence, maturity and originality as a whole, and not only individual works. Key elements in selecting the winner were the level of innovation in terms of social impact, form and the artist's conceptual path, the aesthetic power of the submitted work, and an assessment of the work vis-à-vis the artist's previous works. The prize awarded by the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi to the winner, announced at the inauguration of the exhibition on 18 February 2011, is the sponsorship of a monograph that will be published by Silvana Editoriale, conceived as an important contribution to furthering the winner's career and a way to promote the artist's work.

Emerging Talents is one of the numerous events devoted to young artists that are organized annually by museums and art foundations. The specificity of this project lies first of all in the investment efforts made to award the prize, based on two selection processes that also involved some of the leading national and international professionals in this field. Secondly, *Emerging Talents* is distinguished by the desire to assign an independent and equally significant role to the exhibition with respect to the prize. The duration of the exhibition, the accompanying catalogue and the collateral events that have been scheduled make it an outstanding opportunity for the public to learn about the new research aspirations of young Italian art. The exhibition is structured into separate areas based on the choices made by the individual curators, selecting the best space to present the artistic position of each candidate.

The artists chosen by Luca Massimo Barbero are Alessandro Ceresoli (Romano di Lombardia, Bergamo, 1975), whose works range from video to drawing, merging social actions, historical reconstructions and the reinterpretation of different literary sources or iconographic elements; Valentino Diego (Ciriè, Turin, 1978), whose site-specific installations, constructed with everyday materials often used in industrial constructions, play with space and our perceptual conventions; Giovanni Ozzola (Florence, 1982), who uses photography and video to capture fleeting moments and rarefied moods, in which the infinite possibilities of light create suspended and emotive atmospheres; and Antonio Rovaldi (Parma, 1975), whose multifaceted research probes the boundary between mental and physical, real and imaginary, in spatio-temporal experiences involving the artist or proposed directly to the public.

Chiara Bertola chose Ludovica Carbotta (Turin, 1982), an artist who sets herself as the measure of urban and natural spaces, undertaking a process of the subjective construction and interpretation of places and experiences; Loredana Di Lillo (Gioia del Colle, Bari, 1979), who through different techniques – drawing, collage, sculpture – uses art as a means to explore themes tied to history and to the memory of self and of Western culture; the Invernomuto duo (Turin, 1982 and 1983), characterized by transmedia artistic experimentation poised between reality and dreams; and Margherita Moscardini (Donoratico, Livorno, 1981), whose works emerge as analytical representations of places and the memories of spaces.

Andrea Bruciati instead chose the work of artists such as Giorgio Andreotta Calò (Venice, 1979), whose oeuvre is based on situations at the boundary between participatory operations and direct architectural intervention; Riccardo Benassi (Cremona, 1982), whose installations act on sensations and the encounter of sound and matter; Luca Francesconi (Mantua, 1979), whose sculptural work draws on the forms and symbols of tradition in an anthropological dimension, composing objects that allude to the ancient rituals of agriculture and folk culture; and Alberto Tadiello (Montecchio Maggiore, Vicenza, 1983), whose works combine a reflection on the relationship between sculpture and technology with an interest in the sculptural dimension of sound.

The artists selected by Giacinto Di Pietrantonio are Meris Angioletti (Bergamo, 1977), who is interested in exploring the fine line separating art and science by investigating landscape and space, with an approach that combines scientific method with the creative process; Rossana Buremi (Augusta, Siracusa, 1975), whose works employ ironic erotic iconography to probe topics such as the contemporary obsession with the body and

our feelings of guilt and awareness in relation to it; Patrizio Di Massimo (Jesi, Ancona, 1983), who uses a stratification of artistic languages as an instrument to reflect on history and his identity as an artist today; and Luigi Presicce (Porto Cesareo, Lecce, 1976), a performance artist who unites theatricality and ritual in a constant reference to folk iconography and culture.

The exhibition catalogue takes an in-depth look at the works of these artists through essays by the members of the Selection Committee, as well as illustrations and biographies. It is an instrument designed to help the public learn more about these different areas of research, but at the same time it is a tool for the artists to promote their work nationally and internationally, also through the network of the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi.

Emerging Talents 2011, like every one of the exhibition projects designed by the Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi, is to be accompanied by a programme of lectures held by experts from a variety of different disciplines, in an effort to stimulate a direct debate with the public. Devised by Alessio Bertini, the programme will be offering a broad overview of issues and players on Italy's young creative scene today. Reflecting the specific aims of the award, the lectures will be focusing both on the dynamics involved in promoting young artists in Italy, and on the way the formative process is structured here in Italy and abroad. While affording priority to the artistic sphere, the cycle of lectures will also be offering the viewpoint of experts in such disciplines as architecture (Marco Biraghi) and design (Alberto Bassi and Francesco Franchi). They will be joined by Chiara Bertola and Riccardo Benassi who, each from the standpoint of their respective professional expertise, will be illustrating the good and the not-so-good in our country's promotion of contemporary art. And finally, in conjunction with Florence University and with the MAXXI – National Museum of XXI Century Arts in Rome, a special event is planned with Gabriele Guercio, Anna Mattiolo and Maria Grazia Messina presenting several recent studies of Italian art in the past few decades and discussing the role of cultural institutions in our country.

We would like to thank the artists and the members of the Selection Committee and of the international jury, along with all of the Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi's partners and sponsors, who have allowed us to produce this *Emerging Talents 2011* project, which we believe provides the city of Florence with an important opportunity to update and stimulate interest in young Italian art.

Firenze, 18 February 2011

* From the catalogue *Silvana Editoriale*



LORENZO BINI SMAGHI
President of the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi

From the beginning, the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi strongly supported the creation of a prize for emerging talents, believing that Italian contemporary artists are often at a disadvantage in the international art market. The Emerging Talents award is intended to give young Italian contemporary artists the opportunity to develop their creative abilities and exhibit their works in major centres abroad.

Following the success of the 2009 awards, the Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzi (CCCS) presents the second Emerging Talents award, a project comprising an exhibition and prize presenting and promoting the younger generation of successful Italian artists, aged between 25 and 35 years. The CCC Strozzi shows a representative selection of works by all 16 participating artists at the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence from 19 February to 1 May 2011. The winner of the 2011 Emerging Talents award has been announced at the opening of the exhibition on 18 February 2011. The project is intended to identify and foster those creative talents in Italy that have the potential to make an impact on the international contemporary art scene. The selected artists are considered to be some of the most talented young Italians whose work has not yet won the kind of recognition needed to attract the attention of a wider public.

In addition to all the professionals who helped create the Emerging Talents award — notably the members of the scholarly committee and the members of the international jury — I would especially like to thank the exhibition's public and private partners and sponsors, including the City of Florence, the Province of Florence, and the Florentine Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Regione Toscana, all of whom have strongly supported the CCC Strozzi and the award from the start. We would also like to thank the Association of Private Partners of Palazzo Strozzi, who generously provided both moral and financial support at every stage in the development of this project.

Finally, I would personally like to acknowledge the entire Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi team, and especially the CCC Strozzi Director Franziska Nori and her staff for having worked to create an award that breathes life into the slogan "think global, and act local".

Firenze, 18 February 2011