



Maurizio Cattelan
BECAUSE

Mutina for Art and Arte Fiera Bologna

Bologna, 2–4 February 2024
Preview 1° February 2024

A project by Mutina for Art
Curated by Sarah Cosulich
With a display by Michael Anastassiades

In 1991, still at the beginning of his artistic career, Maurizio Cattelan decided to “infiltrate” Arte Fiera and participate through an unauthorised booth. Thirty-three years later, in 2024, Mutina is pleased to contribute to the fair by creating the stage for another appearance by the artist.

The project BECAUSE is an unexpected dialogue between two works by Cattelan, amplified by the space that houses them.

An apparently guilty cat sits to the side of an assertive abstract painting. They are both fleeing the scene.

Their presence addresses the ambivalence between action and punishment. Who is responsible? And what is the charge?

They are both heroes and outlaws, cheered but blameworthy, defiant yet human, amusing while still ambiguous.

BECAUSE is a short-circuit that becomes a tale of broken rules.

BECAUSE speaks of rebellion and atonement, of valiant troublemakers and radical fragility.

BECAUSE celebrates escaping or turning away instead of providing answers.

BECAUSE mixes righteous and losers and it leaves us amused, embarrassed, complicit.

BECAUSE turns myths into paradoxes and certainties into riddles.

BECAUSE reveals the scratches and hiding places of our consciousness.

BECAUSE reminds us that authority is a limit, expectation is a burden, contradiction is an antidote.

Maurizio Cattelan, *Untitled*, 1991, acrylic on canvas, 110x110x7 cm, collection Massimo Orsini, courtesy the artist and MASSIMODECARLO.

Maurizio Cattelan, *It*, 2023, Belgian black marble, 37x19x41,5 cm, collection Massimo Orsini, courtesy the artist and Perrotin.

Michael Anastassiades, *Fringe*, 2023, Mutina ceramic tile collection.