

**Robert Adams**  
**Compositions of Earth**  
**21.11.2024 – 20.03.2025**  
**Casa Mutina Milano**



Mutina for Art is pleased to present the exhibition project **Robert Adams – *Compositions of Earth***, developed for the spaces of **Casa Mutina Milano**. The show—the artist's first solo exhibition in Italy—features a **selection of iconic images** from the 1970s and the 1980s by the great American photographer set in dialogue with a **display of terracotta multiform brick walls**.

Robert Adams captures through his photographs the beauty and **solemnity of nature**, exploring themes such as the **relationship between man and landscape, urbanization** and the implications of **relentless environmental transformations**.

The exhibition path of *Compositions of Earth* tackles the main subjects explored by Adams, who, through an intimate and profound gaze, has focused on the desolate **American West** and composed a unique portrait which is both essential and lyric.

The exhibition display created for the occasion—thanks to the **intertwining patterns of bricks** from the Mutina collections—provides a different setting for each room. The walls, imposing yet light in the textures defining them, **emphasise earth** in its natural colour. Adams's research has centred on earth and interpreted it as territory. His images bear witness to both the overwhelming power of the landscape and the encounter with those who have shaped it.

Adams's lens has always captured a **silent and pure beauty**. The beauty of the vast prairies where animals, clouds, or roads draw orderly landscapes, and that of light which multiplies shadows and redefines every interior or exterior space.

Between sublime calm and unstoppable metamorphosis, Adams obtains perspectives which shape emotions. His compositions reflect an **intellectual and poetic vision of the world, which is inseparable from its change**.

**The exhibition, curated by Sarah Cosulich, presents a selection of photographs by Robert Adams from the collection of Massimo Orsini, CEO of Mutina.**

Mutina thanks Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, for the collaboration.



## EXHIBITION DISPLAY

In *Compositions of Earth* five rooms of Casa Mutina Milano are “clothed” with brick walls which create abstract and unexpected textures. The brick becomes a way to divide, connect, layer or amplify space, transforming the earth from which it is composed into a new territory to explore. The Mutina Bricks selection used in the display includes the new collection Tally by Michael Anastassiades, Hives by Konstantin Grcic, Bloc by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, Jali by Patricia Urquiola, and rac by Nathalie du Pasquier.

## PUBLICATION

The exhibition *Compositions of Earth* will be accompanied by a catalogue to be released in January 2025, featuring images of the show, contributions from Italian and international authors, and a series of quotes selected by the artist.

## ABOUT ROBERT ADAMS

**Robert Adams** (b. 1937) is considered one of the most influential American photographers. For forty years, he has documented the changing landscapes of the American frontier, capturing both its beauty and fragility.

Adams spent his childhood in New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Colorado and began exploring photography at the age of 25 while working as an English teacher. His black-and-white images focus on nature, architecture, and the importance of light. Initially, his interest was in the simple forms of prairie buildings and churches, and later, it expanded to explore the complexity of the landscapes of the American West.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Adams produced a series of books depicting the suburban expansion along Colorado’s Front Range. These books remain a fundamental part of his work, as does the political, civic, and environmental engagement that has accompanied his artistic journey. In 1989, the Philadelphia Museum of Art held his first major retrospective.

After moving to Oregon in 1997, Adams turned his attention to deforestation, an urgent environmental issue that became a central theme, culminating in the book *Turning Back*. Adams continues to denounce intensive logging while celebrating nature’s sublime power and resilience.

Adams’s work has been the subject of important retrospectives, including a traveling exhibition by the Yale University Art Gallery in 2010, accompanied by a three-volume catalogue *The Place We Live*, and in 2022, the retrospective *American Silence* at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. His most recent book, *Words That Helped* (2023), contains quotes and aphorisms that have inspired his practice.

## ABOUT CASA MUTINA MILANO

**Casa Mutina Milano** is the exhibition space of Mutina, located in the Brera district. Throughout the year, the space comes to life with unique settings and ceramic installations. The space regularly hosts exhibitions in which the works of art are set in dialogue with specifically developed displays, obtained using different Mutina ceramics collections.



## ABOUT MUTINA FOR ART

**Mutina for Art** is the initiative that Mutina dedicates to contemporary art since 2017. In addition to a regular programme of solo and group exhibitions within the Headquarters of Fiorano Modenese and Casa Mutina Milano, the Mutina for Art project features *This Is Not a Prize*, an annual award assigned to an international artist, and *Dialogues*, a series of collaborative ceramic projects with artists and institutions.

## ABOUT MUTINA

The spirit of **Mutina** originates from a dual insight: the need to elevate the essence of ceramics through surfaces with a strong tactility; and the desire to invite the best contemporary international designers to engage with the ceramic material. This combination allows for a perfect dialogue which, since 2005, has led the brand to an unprecedented journey. Mutina challenges the conventions of ceramics not only in terms of scale, texture, and composition but also in terms of creative potential and experimentation.

Mutina is a signature project which involves the world-famous names of design: Michael Anastassiades, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Konstantin Grcic, Hella Jongerius, Laboratorio Avallone, OEO Studio, Raw Edges, Inga Sempé, Patricia Urquiola, Vincent Van Duysen, and Tokujin Yoshioka.

Sensitivity to form, desire for innovation, and openness to contamination have been the principles which have brought Mutina, in 2017, to create the Mutina for Art initiative, a non-profit project which reflects the company's commitment to the visual arts. The aim is to make contemporary art a source of inspiration and experience and, above all, a territory for exchange.

"Mutina evolves in constant dialogue with extraordinary designers, architects, and artists, enhancing the essence of ceramic material with respect, responsibility, and sustainable growth."  
Massimo Orsini, CEO Mutina.

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