



Ode to Things

Ronan Bouroullec, John Currin, Filippo de Pisis, Peter Dreher, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Luigi Ghirri, Damien Hirst, Georges Jouve, Ingeborg Lundin, Aimée Moreau, Fischli/Weiss, Ed Ruscha, Ettore Sottsass, Rudolf Stingel, Wolfgang Tillmans, Goran Trbuljak, and Franco Vimercati.

6 February 2025 – 8 August 2025
Spazio Mutina Fiorano





I have a crazy,
crazy love of things.
I like pliers,
and scissors.
I love
cups,
rings,
and bowls –
not to speak, of course,
of hats.

I love
all things,
not just
the grandest,
also
the
infinitely
small –
thimbles,
spurs,
plates,
and flower vases.

[...]

O irrevocable
river
of things:
no one can say
that I loved
only
fish,
or the plants of the jungle and the field,
that I loved
only
those things that leap and climb, desire, and survive.
It's not true:
many things conspired
to tell me the whole story.
Not only did they touch me,
or my hand touched them:
they were
so close
that they were a part
of my being,
they were so alive with me
that they lived half my life
and will die half my death.

Pablo Neruda, *Ode to Things*



On February 6th 2025 Mutina for Art inaugurates *Ode to Things*, a new exhibition project at the Mutina Headquarters in Fiorano Modenese in which modern and contemporary artworks meet modern and contemporary design. The exhibition—which takes its title from Pablo Neruda's poem of the same name—highlights the importance of the objects that surround us and the revolutionary possibility of imagining and re-imagining them in space, in relation to our bodies and our feelings.

The project, curated by Sarah Cosulich, reunites a selection of twenty-five works of art and design (among them the Editions, realised in ceramics by Mutina) from the collection of Massimo Orsini. Through paintings, photographs and sculptures by eighteen artists and designers, the exhibition establishes a dialogue among different types of still lifes, suggested, built, inspired or derived: vases, bottles and glasses reflect, echo and multiply in the space, as in a fluid and seeming mirroring game. The life of things—an essential source of inspiration for Mutina's ceramic work and a significant subject of the collection—becomes an impulse for an exchange without hierarchies which takes the shape of a large, all-encompassing composition. As in Neruda's poem, the "inanimate" comes alive, and objects become figures on stage which, in their bi-dimensionality and tridimensionality, suggest stratified spaces and narrations.

Ode to Things celebrates the importance of the everyday, highlighting the diverse approaches through which common objects are interpreted. Language, form, existential metaphor, functionality, ironic reference, phenomenological study, intimate and subjective representation, a pretext to test the limits of painting: in the exhibition, images and things uncover a complex landscape of human desires, fears and beauty of the ordinary. The objects reveal themselves in the elegance of form and in the semantic complexities of their constructions, in a constant short circuit between modernism, illusionism, vanitas and seduction.

Presented on the occasion of Mutina's twentieth anniversary, *Ode to Things* is also a celebration of the three souls of the company. The exhibition project is set up, in fact, as a dialogue among art, design and ceramics, giving way to a visual and conceptual narration which reflects the identity and vision of the brand. The works in the show thus become a homage to the creative path of Mutina, that, in the past twenty years, has collaborated with the most significant contemporary designers to celebrate the essence of ceramics.

ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS IN THE EXHIBITION

Ronan Bouroullec, John Currin, Filippo de Pisis, Peter Dreher, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Luigi Ghirri, Damien Hirst, Georges Jouve, Ingeborg Lundin, Aimée Moreau, Fischli/Weiss, Ed Ruscha, Ettore Sottsass, Rudolf Stingel, Wolfgang Tillmans, Goran Trbuljak, Franco Vimercati.

ABOUT MUTINA

Mutina represents a new way of looking at ceramics, not merely as a surface covering but as an authorial project developed in close collaboration with some among the most significant designers of our time. Since 2005, the company has been exploring the potential of ceramics, blending technology with craftsmanship, pushing the boundaries of the material, and enhancing the tactile possibilities of its surfaces. Mutina's vision is rooted in a commitment to research, quality and innovation, while always placing the unique value of creativity at the centre.

This teamwork is carried forward together with 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, who share with Mutina an unwavering passion for excellence and a constant desire for new challenges.



ABOUT MUTINA FOR ART

Mutina for Art is the non-profit project that, since 2017, Mutina dedicates to contemporary art. In addition to a regular programme of solo and group exhibitions at its headquarters in Fiorano Modenese and at Casa Mutina Milano, Mutina for Art includes also This Is Not a Prize, an award assigned to an international artist, and the Dialogues, a series of ceramic collaborations with artists and institutions.

ABOUT MASSIMO ORSINI

Massimo Orsini is the founder of Mutina and a collector. His painting, photography, sculpture and design collection often serves as the starting point for the development of group exhibitions in the spaces of Modena and Milan while being the source of inspiration for the company's ceramic work. Part of the collection is displayed in the Mutina offices and visible to the public by appointment.

ABOUT SARAH COSULICH

Sarah Cosulich is Mutina for Art curator. The exhibitions she curates for Mutina explore all media: they are both solo shows by international artists specifically developed for the spaces, as well as group shows originating from Massimo Orsini's collection. A distinguishing feature of Mutina for Art exhibition projects is often the dialogue with ceramics, be it a background, an element of interaction or a material to engage with.

For more information and materials, please contact:

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