

“ART FACTOR”: BFF BANK’S EXHIBITION CONTINUES ON ITS EUROPEAN TOUR AND HEADS TO LISBON

The artworks will be exhibited at the Palácio Galveias Library from 12 October to 30 November 2023, under the institutional patronage of the Italian Embassy in Lisbon.

The exhibition, which has already visited Spain, Greece, Poland and Slovakia, highlights the Italian path towards Pop Art, with a selection of works by artists from the second half of the 20th century.

Milan - Lisbon, 27 September, 2023 – BFF Banking Group announces the dates of the fifth leg of the exhibition “ART FACTOR - The Pop Legacy in Post-War Italian Art”, to be held in Lisbon at the Palácio Galveias Library from 12 October to 30 November, 2023, under the Institutional patronage of the Italian Embassy in Portugal.

The inauguration of the exhibition is part of the “è cultura!” (“it's culture!”) event, set to be staged from 7 to 14 October by the Italian Banking Association (ABI) and the Italian Association of Foundations and Savings Banks (ACRI), in collaboration with the Foundation for Education on Finance and Savings (FEDuF). It stands out within the programme as **the only initiative geared towards promoting Italian art abroad.**

“Art Factor” describes the Italian path towards Pop Art through works by Valerio Adami, Enrico Baj, Lucio Del Pezzo, Gianfranco Pardi, Mario Schifano and Emilio Tadini, all of which are to be found in the collection that BFF has been compiling since the 1980s. The Lisbon leg was preceded by those in Madrid, Athens, Warsaw and Bratislava – the capitals of some of the main European countries in which BFF operates.

The exchange between graphic art and literature – which acts as the driver for the dissemination of knowledge and for shared growth – will be the central theme of the exhibition in Lisbon, which will also be encapsulated by the design of the staging within the Galveias Palace Library, where a selection of works created exclusively on paper will be on show.

Carlo Formosa, the Italian Ambassador to Portugal, commented: *“I am delighted to give a warm, Portuguese welcome to this touring exhibition, which is showcasing right around Europe an artistic experience shot through both with a very strong sense of the Italian identity and with a*

profoundly international vocation, enhanced by the global artistic language inspired by the dialogue with Pop Art. The opening of the exhibition comes at a particularly fortuitous moment, during the 19th Contemporary Art Day, in the week from 7 to 13 October. Last but not least, the space of the Galveias Palace Library effectively combines the institutional hospitality of Lisbon City Council and BFF's dedicated patronage of contemporary art."

Massimiliano Belingheri, CEO, BFF Banking Group, stated: *"The Lisbon leg of 'Art Factor' is particularly significant for BFF, which in 2023 is celebrating the fifth anniversary of the opening of its Portuguese subsidiary. With this exhibition, and with the choice of the Galveias Palace Library as the venue, we would like to underline that our relationship with the local community is not exclusively commercial, economic or financial, but is also based on engagement and cultural exchange. We are very pleased to be taking part in the Italian "è cultura!" initiative, through which – for the benefit of the entire community – banks and foundations are holding events that see them opening up to the public a number of the places that have been culturally important for their own histories. With Art Factor, BFF is contributing to this event by being a steadfast promoter of Italian art outside Italy."*

Maria Alicata, curator of the exhibition, added: *"The Galveias Palace Library – a major hub for literature, research and study – affords an opportunity to put on display for the first time a selection of works on paper from the collection. The intention is to create an ideal dialogue with the venue playing host to the exhibition. Indeed, traditionally, artists have used paper to test out new forms of research and to develop new ideas, thanks to the immediacy of drawing. This medium can offer viewers a more intimate appreciation of the artists' creative process, as if they were giving us a personal insight into how their minds select and then go on to develop ideas."*

Lawyer and Cultural Director **Carlos Moura-Carvalho** concluded: *"The 'Art Factor' initiative is a virtuous example of how it is possible to reconcile the corporate spirit with a commitment to art, at a time when the role of companies has become crucial in developing cultural projects and promoting art as a shared heritage. Moreover, it also demonstrates how a public municipal library can be involved in an international exhibition, which in this case is being staged in one of Lisbon's most beautiful seventeenth-century noble palaces; a cultural space that for José Saramago was quite simply 'the world...!'"*

The touring exhibition "Art Factor – The Pop Legacy in Post-War Italian Art" forms part of a larger project that was launched by BFF in 2019 and has encompassed the surveying, reconditioning and digitizing of the collection of around 250 contemporary artworks, put together by BFF from the 1980s onwards and exhibited on a permanent basis at the group's offices in Milan and Rome. The project pressed ahead in 2021 with the publication and international distribution of the artbook of the same name, published by *Skira editore Milan*

Genève Paris, and will culminate in 2024 at “Casa BFF”, the bank’s new headquarters in Milan, which will feature a museum section.

The initiative is being organized under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation.

The exhibition will be staged **from 12 October to 30 November, 2023**. Access is free, and the opening hours are as follows: **Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 7pm; Saturday and Monday, from 1pm to 7pm.**

For more information: www.art-factor.eu/exhibitions/lisbon

BFF Banking Group

BFF Banking Group is the largest speciality finance provider in Italy and a leading player in Europe for the management and non-recourse factoring of trade receivables owed to suppliers by public-sector organizations; BFF also provides securities services and corporate payment services. The group operates in Italy, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain. BFF is listed on the Italian Stock Exchange. In 2022 it reported a consolidated Adjusted Net Income of €14.6.0 million, with a 15.6% Group CET1 ratio at the end of June 2023. www.bff.com

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