

IN WASHINGTON, BFF INAUGURATES THE SECOND LEG OF ITS EXHIBITION “CONTEMPORARY ECHOES: REDISCOVERING ITALIAN ART, 1950-1980 – ARTWORKS FROM THE BFF COLLECTION”

The exhibition, already held in New York, showcases BFF’s contemporary art collection and will be on display in Washington through June 2, 2024.

April 19 will see the staging of the “Creative Alliances” conference to foster relations between art and business.

*Milan, Washington, April 5, 2024 – BFF Banking Group is delighted to announce the opening of its exhibition “**Contemporary Echoes: Rediscovering Italian Art, 1950-1980 – Artworks from the BFF Collection,**” created by BFF in partnership with the US-based International Arts and Artists (IA&A) association, under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Ministry of Culture.*

The exhibition, previously staged in New York, opens today, Friday, April 5, and will come to a close on **June 2, 2024**.

Curated by Renato Miracco and utilizing a number of works from the BFF Collection, “*Contemporary Echoes*” sheds light on the intrinsic, deep-seated, and well-documented engagements between American and Italian artists in the period 1950-1980, exploring their reciprocal influences and personal relationships, as well as the diverse motivations and identities of a time that underpins the history of today’s contemporary art.

As part of this initiative, April 19 is the date set for the conference “**Creative Alliances: Navigating Cultural Diplomacy at the Intersection of Business and the Arts.**” Organized under the patronage of the Italian Embassy, the event will bring together representatives from the fields of diplomacy, finance, culture, and the media, to reflect on the importance of the relationship between art and business, as a key factor for growth.

Entry to the “*Contemporary Echoes*” exhibition is free for all visitors, as part of BFF’s efforts to raise the profile of art and encourage access to it.

The exhibition will be open to visitors in Washington, Tuesday through Friday, 12:00pm – 6:00pm, Saturday and Sunday, 12:00pm – 5:00pm, at the IA&A at Hillyer, 9 Hillyer Ct NW, Washington DC.

Creative Alliances
Navigating Cultural Diplomacy at the Intersection of Business and the Arts

April 19, 2024
The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC

Welcome and Introduction

Juanita Hardy, Chair of the Board, IA&A
Mariangela Zappia, Italian Ambassador to the United States

Creating Connection: A Case Study for the Power of Art Museums in the 21st century

Anne Taylor Brittingham, Deputy Director for Education and Responsive Learning Spaces,
The Phillips Collection

Custodians of Our Past: Preserving Shared Memories through Curated Collections

Massimiliano Belingheri, CEO, BFF Banking Group
Grégoire Roos, BMW Foundation
Moderator: Eugene Robinson, Washington Post

Harmonizing Forces: Unleashing Cultural Diplomacy through Public-Private Partnerships

Lisa Gable, US Ambassador, best-selling author
Margery Kraus, Founder and Executive Chair, APCO Worldwide
Renato Miracco, curator of the “*Contemporary Echoes*” exhibition
Moderator: Ana Rold, Diplomatic Courier

Closing remarks and tour of “*Contemporary Echoes*”

Greg Houston, CEO, IA&A
Renato Miracco

<https://athillyer.org/creative-alliances/>

Further information:

<https://athillyer.org/contemporary-echoes-dc/>

www.bff.com

Email: BFF@artsandartists.org

About the Curator, Renato Miracco

Renato Miracco is an art historian, critic, and curator. He has been Director “per chiara fama” of the Italian Cultural Institute in New York, Cultural Attaché at the Italian Embassy to the United States and Member of the Board of Guarantors at the Italian Academy at Columbia University. Miracco has curated over 87 exhibitions worldwide, including: an anthological exhibition on Giorgio Morandi at the Metropolitan Museum, New York; the Burri, Fontana, and Manzoni exhibition at the Tate Modern, London; an anthological exhibition dedicated to Giacomo Balla at the Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (Brazil); and a retrospective of Italian art of the 1950s and 1960s at the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC. He is currently the Guest Curator at the Phillips Collection (Washington, DC) where he recently curated a monographic exhibition on Giuseppe De Nittis, which was considered among the ten best exhibitions between the U.S. and Europe in 2023.

About International Arts & Artists

International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public.

About BFF Banking Group

BFF Banking Group is the largest speciality finance provider in Italy and a leading player in Europe for Factoring and Lending services towards Public Administrations; in Italy, it is also the leading name in securities services and corporate payment services. The Group operates in nine countries in Europe.

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