

## MARIO SCHIFANO: IL NUOVO IMMAGINARIO. 1960 - 1990

**Gallerie d'Italia - Napoli, Intesa Sanpaolo museum**

**2 June – 29 October 2023**

**Curated by Luca Massimo Barbero**

### PRESS IMAGES

Naples, 1 June 2023 – Intesa Sanpaolo is pleased to present *Mario Schifano: il nuovo immaginario. 1960-1990* [*The new imaginary. 1960-1990*], a survey exhibition dedicated to one of the most important 20th-century Italian artists. The exhibition will be on view at the Intesa Sanpaolo Museum **Gallerie d'Italia in Naples, from 2 June to 29 October 2023.**

Curated by **Luca Massimo Barbero**, the exhibition presents more than 50 works from the artist's production from the 1960s to the 1990s. Many of the works in the exhibition form part of Intesa Sanpaolo's collection, while others are loans from important cultural institutions, such as the Museo del Novecento in Milan, and national and international art galleries and private collections, selected in collaboration with the Mario Schifano Archive.

Mario Schifano began his career in the late 1950s and early 1960s. At first, his research led him to focus on the production of dense, monochromatic paintings, which most probably derived from his experience as a restorer in the museum of Etruscan art and archaeological artefacts, where his father had convinced him to work. The dense black of the ancient, Etruscan vases inspired the young artist to such an extent that all of his most significant paintings of the period are influenced - in the framing, the perspective, details - by those antiquities. The

exhibition itinerary at the Gallerie d'Italia in Naples starts from these extremely rare **monochrome works** from Schifano's early period, some of which, once included in the Luigi and Peppino Agrati Collection, are now part of the Intesa Sanpaolo Group's collection. This exhibition marks the first time that these early monochromes are brought together, allowing visitors to encounter the work *Grande pittura* (1963) and other iconic paintings dedicated to Esso, Coca Cola and various urban brands that reveal the artist's interest in **signs and labels** in the early 1960's.

The exhibition aims to present all the masterpieces by Schifano addressing the most central and relevant themes of his artistic research and practice, this way unfolding, room by room, as an in-depth analysis of the artist's production. The presentation offers an unprecedented opportunity to experience the famous paintings dedicated to **Italian landscapes** such as *Ultimo Autunno* (1964), a fundamental work by Schifano, as well as ***Futurismo rivisitato***, a small format work, both forming part of the Intesa Sanpaolo Collection. *Futurismo Rivisitato* was dedicated to the masters like Giacomo Balla, Gino Severini and Carlo Carrà, who had been studying the movement of the human figure.

At the end of the first section of the exhibition, visitors will encounter some of the major works of the mature period, such as *Compagni Compagni* and *Tableau peint pour raconter l'inquietude amoureuse de Susi*. These works will open the path to a section entirely devoted to *Paesaggi TV* (literally, TV Landscapes).

For the first time, a series of works from the 1970s titled ***Paesaggi TV*** is exhibited and made accessible to the general public: creations that, by revisiting painting through the use of the camera and the emulsion of colours, re-propose news, art and advertising events on canvas. A series of images is captured by the artist

directly from the cathode ray tube, and impressed on the canvas' surface. The result is a series of surreal television screens, most of which portray the phantasmic versions of his masters' -Giorgio De Chirico, Leonardo Da Vinci and Pablo Picasso- most famous paintings.

On the ground floor, within Gallerie d'Italia's Salone Toledo, the large-scale work *Festa Cinese* (1968), more than seven metres across, is showcased alongside a constellation of works from the last three decades of Mario Schifano's artistic production, before his death in 1998. Among the **extra large-format paintings** that are part of the exhibition, visitors will encounter emblematic works such as *Gaston a cavallo* (1986), two of the important *Gigli d'acqua e Acerbo* and three large, more contemporary canvases manifesting Mario Schifano's fond interest towards the screen, the mass media and the contemporary production of images. These last works from the 1990s are intentionally displayed here as to give emphasis on their monumentality, which comes after a particular event occurred in the artist's life and that is still decipherable in some fragments of this series of paintings, such as in the work *Per esempio* that is part of the exhibition. These challenging works crystallize Mario Schifano's fertile creativity in the mature period. Not surprisingly, the critics used to define such colossal yet festive series of works as *the extraordinary canvases of international contemporary art*.

The exhibition **catalogue** is produced by **Edizioni Gallerie d'Italia | Skira**.

Along with Gallerie d'Italia in Milan, Turin and Vicenza, Gallerie d'Italia in Naples is part of Intesa Sanpaolo's museum project, led by Michele Coppola, Executive Director of Art, Culture and Historical Heritage at the Bank.

#### **PRESS INFORMATION**

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### **VISITORS INFORMATION**

**Address:** Gallerie d'Italia – Napoli | Via Toledo, 177 Napoli

**Opening hours:** from Tuesday to Friday: from 10:00 to 19:00; Saturday and Sunday: from 10.00 to 20.00. Closed on Mondays. Last entrance: one hour before the closing time.\*

**Tickets:** full 7€, reduced 4€, free entry for Gallerie d'Italia members, students, people under 18s and Intesa Sanpaolo Group customers.

**Information and bookings:** [www.gallerieditalia.com](http://www.gallerieditalia.com) - [milano@gallerieditalia.com](mailto:milano@gallerieditalia.com) -

Free toll number 800.167619

\*Special opening: Friday, 2 June 2023

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Intesa Sanpaolo is Italy's leading banking group serving families, businesses and the real economy with a significant international presence. Intesa Sanpaolo's distinctive business model makes it a European leader in Wealth Management, Protection & Advisory, highly focused on digital and fintech. An efficient and resilient Bank, it benefits from its wholly owned product factories in asset management and insurance. The Group's strong ESG commitment includes providing €115 billion in impact lending by 2025 to communities and for the green transition, and €500 million in contributions to support people most in need, positioning Intesa Sanpaolo as a world leader in terms of social impact. Intesa Sanpaolo is committed to Net Zero by 2030 for its own emissions and by 2050 for its loan and investment portfolios. An engaged patron of Italian culture, Intesa Sanpaolo has created its own network of museums, the Gallerie d'Italia, to present the bank's artistic heritage and to offer a venue for prestigious cultural projects.

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