

BFF Gallery
presents

Cities. Voices and Visions
Urban Imageries Between Memory and Contemporaneity

curated by Maria Alicata and Renato Miracco

Emilio Tadini's depictions of the city provide the inspiration for a reflection on the urban space, through the works of great 20th-century masters and contemporary artists from Italy and beyond

On display are works by Umberto **Boccioni**, Marina **Caneve**, Felice **Casorati**, Renato **D'Agostin**, Massimiliano **Gatti**, Elisabetta **Gut**, Bice **Lazzari**, Titina **Maselli**, Giorgio **Morandi**, Marina **Paris**, Mario **Sironi**, Ardengo **Soffici**, Franca **Sonnino**, Emilio **Tadini**, Paolo **Ventura** and Yang **Yongliang**

30 October 2025 – 3 April 2026

BFF Gallery, viale Lodovico Scarampo 15, Milan

Free entry with prior booking

Milan, 28 October 2025 – From 30 October 2025 to 3 April 2026, **BFF Gallery** – the museum dedicated to modern and contemporary art, opened last April by BFF Banking Group – will host the exhibition “*City. Voices and Visions. Urban Imageries Between Memory and Contemporaneity*”, curated by **Maria Alicata** and **Renato Miracco**.

The initiative forms part of the activities geared towards the promotion of Italian art being implemented by BFF Bank as an expression of the group's focus on, and sense of responsibility towards, both the wider community and Italy's cultural heritage as a whole. The starting point for these initiatives is the group's contemporary art collection.

Emilio Tadini's 1988 work *Città italiana* (Italian City), part of BFF's art collection, is the departure point for the exhibition, which reflects on the city as a cultural, emotional and symbolic construction.

Emilio Tadini – the painter, sculptor and intellectual who was one of the leading lights of the latter part of the twentieth century – described Milan (and, indeed, the city *per se*) by offering up a stratified, vibrant and ever-changing image of it, both through works such as those on show in the exhibition and through essays, articles, novels, plays.

Along the exhibition route, Tadini's work enters into a dialogue with works by time-honoured artists such as Umberto **Boccioni**, Felice **Casorati**, Elisabetta **Gut**, Bice **Lazzari**, Titina **Maselli**, Giorgio **Morandi**, Mario **Sironi**, Ardengo **Soffici** and Franca **Sonnino** (some from outside Italy or from private collections, and as such rarely on public display), and with works by contemporary Italian and international artists such as Marina **Caneve**, Renato **D'Agostin**, Massimiliano **Gatti**, Marina

Paris, Paolo Ventura, and Yang Yongliang, giving rise to an exhibition that takes in an array of different epochs, languages and visions of the city, in a dense interweaving of past and present.

The works of Umberto Boccioni – a study for *The City Rises* (1910) and one from the series *States of Mind: the Farewells* (1912) – along with a *Landscape* by Ardengo Soffici, from 1913-14, and two Bolognese *vedute* from the 1920s by Giorgio Morandi, are on display thanks to a partnership with the Estorick Collection in London. For their part, the six works by Mario Sironi, which guide visitors through the vision of the “new city”, come from the Archivio Sironi in Rome.

Organised into ten themed sections – *The Transforming City, New Landscape, The Memory of the Landscape, Combining the Imaginary, Geometries of the Metropolis, Traces and Visions, Confines of Identity, Urban Theatres, The New Inhabitants, Emotional Traces* – the exhibition invites the visitor to interpret the concept of the city as a work-in-progress: a place of tension between past and future, reality and vision, presence and absence.

Completing the visual story, a selection of art books and narrative essays created by Emilio Tadini and by a number of the contemporary artists with works on display in the exhibition offer further perspectives on the image and the imagination of the city.

With *Cities. Voices and Visions. Urban Imageries Between Memory and Contemporaneity*, visitors are guided on an emotional and participatory journey, amid moments of contemplation and spaces of active involvement. The exhibition route deliberately avoids a linear progression, taking on instead the form of an open structure, in which the works overlap to give rise to new meanings. Indeed, by triggering an ongoing dialogue between the works they can view here and their own, first-hand experiences, the exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to highlight their own idea of the city, thus contributing to what is an ever-evolving, collective project.

The exhibition catalogue is published by Dario Cimorelli Editore, and includes the essays “*The City as a Book of the Soul*” by Renato Miracco and “*The Threshold of the City. Visions of Memory, Absence and Possibility*”, by Maria Alicata.

Cities. Voices and Visions - Urban Imageries Between Memory and Contemporaneity

30 October 2025 - 3 April 2026

Viale Lodovico Scarampo 15, Milan

Monday to Friday, 10:30-17:30

Closed: from 24 December 2025 to 7 January 2026, and at weekends

Free entry with prior registration from 13 October 2025 here: bffgallery.com

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