

## PRESENTING MAXXI FOR 2016

**17 new exhibitions featuring social commitment, research, quality, sharing and international cooperation**

**FOLLOWING ENEL, THE LAZIO REGION OFFICIALLY JOINS THE FONDAZIONE MAXXI AND MINI BECOMES A PARTNER IN THE MUSEUM'S PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

among the protagonists:

**JIMMIE DURHAM, PIER LUIGI NERVI, AMOS GITAI, WILLIAM KENTRIDGE, SUPERSTUDIO, SISLEJ XHAFA, SHAZIA SIKANDER, ALVARO SIZA**

and

**A tribute to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Italian republic with the photographic exhibition *L'ITALIA CI GUARDA*;**

**ARCHITECTURE IN JAPAN; THE YOUNG TALENTS OF YAP and THE MAXXI PRIZE**

looking ahead to 2017:

**THE MASTERPIECES OF THE TEHRAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND A FOCUS ON BEIRUT AND LEBANON**

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*Rome, 23 February 2016. 17 new exhibitions and four of the museum's productions "exported" abroad in 2016; a representative of Enel (the president Patrizia Grieco) joins the Board of Directors as does Caterina Cardona of the Lazio Region confirming this institution as a founding partner of the museum; the new collaboration with MINI, the museum's new partner for its Public Programs, all those events that explore and enhance its exhibitions.*

All this is MAXXI today, following on from what was a significant 12 months in 2015 that saw the museum's collection on **permanent and free display for all, thanks in part to Enel, the Fondazione MAXXI's first private founding partner.**

The 2016 programme – the fruit of the joint efforts of the artistic director Hou Hanru and the staff of MAXXI Arte and MAXXI Architettura directed by Margherita Guccione – responds to an idea of an open museum playing a key role in contemporary cultural, social and political debate: from the focus on the Mediterranean basin and the Middle East to the themes of immigration, acceptance, urbanizations and sustainability recounted through group and solo exhibitions, special projects and seminars.

As **Giovanna Melandri**, President of the Fondazione MAXXI says: "Artistic practices are a workshop for the future, for new visions. And it is also through art that we may build bridges and creativity can and must be an instrument of cultural diplomacy."

**Hou Hanru**, Artistic Director of MAXXI adds: "MAXXI intends to be a modern forum for artistic expression and debate among Italian and international creative talents. A workshop for the creators of projects with highly imaginative characters facing up to the challenges of the reality of today."

## **THE EXHIBITIONS**

**17 new exhibitions** have been programmed, with three having recently opened, accompanied by a rich programme of seminars, lectures and analyses.

Among the new current exhibitions: **JIMMIE DURHAM. *Sound and Silliness*** which presents four intense and exciting works, two audio and two video pieces, all made in Italy (through to 24 April). **PIERLUIGI NERVI. *Architecture for sport*** illustrating Nervi's projects for sports facilities throughout the world, from the Stadio Berta in Florence to the works for the Rome Olympics of 1960 and the first multi-racial sports facility in Cape Town, South Africa (through to 2 October). **ALCANTARA-MAXXI. *Local Icons. East West***, now in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition, this project presents a comparison between East and West through the interpretations of 10 world capitals by 9 international designers (through to 28 February).

The 2016 programme proceeds with **AMOS GITAI. *Chronicle of an assassination foretold*** (11 March – 5 June), an exhibition that is based on the film *Rabin, the last day*: not merely a tribute to a great man of peace,

but also an attempt to portray the crisis in present day Israeli society. The exhibition features five video projections, photographs, soundtracks and an installation specifically conceived for this show by the director. With **HIGHLIGHTS/Visions** (11 March – 4 June 2016) the works of the artists and architects Sou Fujimoto, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Paolo Soleri, Luca Vitone, Franz West and Chen Zhen are presented in an exhibition that tackles the theme of "vision", the capacity to observe the real and translate it into a subjective dimension. On 13 April, William Kentridge, in Rome for the presentation of the *Triumphs and Laments* project that MAXXI has supported from the outset, will be featuring in an *Artist's Conversation* and from that date the museum's permanent collection will be enriched by **About William Kentridge**, a selection of his most important works belonging to the museum.

**SUPERSTUDIO. 50 years of Superarchitettura** (20 April - 4 September) celebrates the 50 years since the foundation of the group with a site specific installation conceived for the museum and a rich body of material that MAXXI Architettura is acquiring for its collection and which reveal the full complexity of the group's work.

Two exhibitions open to the public on 2 June: **EXTRAORDINARY VISIONS. Italia** (through to 23 October), a major exhibition with which MAXXI is paying tribute to the 70 years of the Italian Republic through images of the *Belpaese* as seen and immortalised by great Italian and international photographers such as Luigi Ghirri, Gabriele Basilico, Mimmo Jodice, Franco Fontana, Gianni Berengo Gardin, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Armin Linke, Jordi Bernadó, Massimo Vitali and others.

And then **Benvenuto! SISLEJ XHAFI** (through to 2 October 2016), the artist of Kosovan origins, Xhafa has always been committed to the investigation of issues such as immigration, identity, nationality, migration and legality which particularly pertinent today. This retrospective presents over 20 of his works including installations, sculptures, videos, photographs and paintings that provide an overview of his career from the 1990s to the present. The title of the exhibition reference that of one of his environmental works on the theme of immigration.

21 June will see the opening of the first Italian solo show of **SHAZIA SIKANDER**, a Pakistani artist working with multimedia from drawings to video; she refers to traditional Indo-Persian images and techniques, translating them into the idioms and themes of today, such as the changing relationship between Islam and individual identities in the contemporary world.

And again from 21 June, the MAXXI summer will be enlivened by **YAP MAXXI 2016**, the project supporting young architectural talent developed in partnership with MoMA/MoMA PS1, Constructo in Santiago de Chile, Istanbul Modern and MMCA in Seoul. The sixth edition of the program will be presenting in the MAXXI piazza the installation *MAXXI Temporary School: The museum is a school. A school is a Battleground* by the Parasite 2.0 studio which uses mobile scenery and imaginative settings to reflect on and annul the boundaries between nature and artifice.

In the autumn young artists will be featuring in the **PREMIO MAXXI** with site specific works by the shortlisted Riccardo Arena, Ludovica Carbotto, Adelita Husni-Bey and ZAPRUDER.

With **ALVARO SIZA. Sacro** (from 21 October 2016), the museum will be presenting a site specific installation composed of inclined ramparts and walls in a dialogue with the architecture of Zaha Hadid. The exhibition will feature drawings, models and sketches of churches, parish halls and chapels along with sacred decorations, furniture and objects, evidence of the Portuguese master's iconographical projects.

The single-family dwellings of Japan, a fundamental element of urban space, are explored in the exhibition **GENEALOGY OF HOUSE ARCHITECTURE IN JAPAN 1945-2015** (from 21 October) in part through the work of some of the most important figures in Japanese architecture from the post-war period to the present.

And lastly, three special projects: **RINASCERE DALLA BELLEZZA. La contemporaneità delle antichità mesopotamiche**, in Spazio D from 5 to 22 May 2016, an exhibition coproduced by MAXXI and MAECI on Italian cooperation defending cultural heritage in Iraq. In the autumn of 2016 **COLLECTIONS AT MAXXI**

**EXPANDING HORIZONS**: a temporary focus on the major national and international corporate and private collections, in dialogue with the permanent display of the MAXXI Collection, while work continues on the research project **THE INDEPENDENT**, dedicated to independent Italian and international groups that "make culture" outside of the traditional dynamics.

## **MAXXI AROUND THE WORLD**

2016 will see further reinforcement of the museum's network of international collaborations through among other initiatives exhibitions produced and coproduced by MAXXI and presented in prestigious international institutions.

These include: **BELLISSIMA L'Italia dell'alta moda 1945-1968** which, after having been represented at the Bozar Museum in Brussels and at Villa Reale in Monza, is now on show at the NSU Museum in Fort Lauderdale, Miami.

**HUANG YONG PING. *Bàton Serpent*** which was coproduced with and represented at Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing and at the Power Station of Art, Shanghai, respectively in September 2015 and February 2016.  
**OLIVO BARBIERI. *Immagini 1978-2014*** represented at the Recoleta Cultural Centre, Buenos Aires from 2 March 2016, and **AMOS GITAI. *Chronicle of an Assassination Foretold***, coproduced with the BOZAR museum of Brussels, which opens in Belgium on 17 June 2016.

### **MAXXI: A RESEARCH OUTPOST FOCUSING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

In 2016 and 2017 MAXXI will be continuing its examination of the Mediterranean and the Middle East through a series of specific projects and international joint ventures. This programme includes *Unedited History. Iran 1960 – 2014* the exhibition on contemporary art in Iran realised in 2014/15; *Istanbul. Passion, joy, fury*, open through to 30 April 2016; the project *AMOS GITAI. Chronicle of an assassination foretold* and, in 2017, an exhibition on the contemporary art scene in Beirut and Lebanon and the presentation of masterpieces from the TMOCA of Tehran, including works by Francis Bacon, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol, Alberto Giacometti and Mark Rothko, some of which have never previously left the country.

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

There follow a number of the initiatives that over the course of the year will be accompanying the exhibitions. **THE HISTORIES OF ART**, five seminars introducing and exploring the expressive idioms behind contemporary creative processes; **THE HISTORIES OF ARCHITECTURE**, five seminars with experts and scholars presenting the architectural and planning history of Rome. **ARTISTS' CONVERSATIONS** investigating the themes of the projects and works exhibited in MAXXI's private collection and discussed directly with artists such as William Kentridge and architects such as Paolo Desideri and Franco Purini. **THE HISTORIES OF PHOTOGRAPHY** which through the anecdotes of international historians, lecturers, critics and academics will allow the public to discover the great masters of Italian photography. **THE HISTORIES OF DESIGN** a series of five seminars introducing the stories and the ideas of those who have revolutionised the way of designing objects and, last but not least, **a seminar with the Pritzker Prize winner Alvaro Siza**. The programme will also feature theatre, performance and film. In particular, MAXXI will continue to collaborate with the Fondazione Cinema per Roma – CityFest with the Cinema at MAXXI season that through to 7 April 2016 is presenting previews, tributes to great actors and directors, masterclasses and films for children.

### **MAXXI EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.**

The role and activities of MAXXI Education are fundamental reaching out to, understanding and conversing with the public. All the various projects and workshops (473 in 2015, attended by around 13,000 people, including schools groups, families, adults and children) are organized and run by the Fondazione MAXXI staff. Among the projects for 2016, mention should be made of **MAXXI in the Classroom**, now in its third editions, the workshops with the artists **Sarkis** and **Mario Rizzi** and **Paper Architecture** on the occasion of the exhibition on Japan.

Of equal importance are MAXXI's **Public Engagement** activities that help to make the museum an active place of exchange and social inclusion, a "zona franca" that welcomes the voices of the vulnerable to whom the experience of art is offered. Among the projects for 2016: the second edition of ***Narrations from Museum to Museum*** which brings together the works conserved by various institutions and also involves migrant minors and people with disabilities or **MAXXI for REFUGEE ScART, REFUGEE ScART for MAXXI**: the museum bookshop is selling jewellery and design objects created by a group of refugees from recycled materials, the proceeds from which go back to them.

The **press kit and images** can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.fondazionemaxxi.it/area-riservata/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

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