

26th Biennale des Antiquaires
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Stand S12

20th century art in 10 masterpieces
One artwork per decade

For its second participation in the Biennale des Antiquaires, Tornabuoni Art has chosen to present 10 masterpieces with a rich museal history.

One masterpiece per decade: this was the starting point of a selection based on the outstanding quality of the works, but also by their significance in the history of the avant-gardes, which Tornabuoni Art has been defending for over 30 years.

For Michele Casamonti, who is first and foremost a collector, ***“an artwork must bear witness to an artistic movement”***. Each of the pieces presented here are the manifestos of 10 major artists who shaped the history of 20th century art.



Pablo Picasso
Vase, Pipe, Paquet de Tabac, 1919
Signed Picasso, dated 19
Oil on canvas, 65 x 54 cm

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1900 - 1910

Umberto Boccioni

Reggio Calabria 1882 - Sorte (Verona) 1916



Impressioni di paesaggio, 1908
Oil on wood 24,5 x 34,5 cm

This historic painting precedes the **invention of futurism**, the most significant cultural movement in Italy in the first half of the 20th century, whose founding father is Umberto Boccioni.

The artist, who died at the age of 36, produced few paintings: therefore, they are much sought-after.

1910 – 1920

Pablo Picasso

Málaga 1881 – Mougins 1973



Vase, Pipe, Paquet de Tabac, 1919
Signed Picasso dated 19
Oil on canvas 65 x 54 cm

Picasso dominates the history of 20th century art, and with *Vase, Pipe, Paquet de Tabac*, Tornabuoni Art presents a painting with an extraordinary pedigree: **the best possible provenance (the Rosenberg Collection) and the presence of the painting at the Philadelphia Museum of Art for over half a century.**

1920 - 1930

Mario Sironi

Sassari 1885 - Milano 1961



Periferia Il tram e la gru, 1921
Mixed media on paper laid down on canvas,
98 x 73 cm

Sironi is one of the iconic figures of the Italian Novecento and his metaphysical paintings are much sought-after.

This current, a forerunner of Surrealism, endeavors to represent what is beyond the physical appearance of reality, beyond the experience of the senses. The crane, the passing train and the urban periphery in this large 1921 painting are perfect symbols of this quest, and **very rarely featured in works available on the market.**

The painting has been shown at the Palazzo Reale in Milan and the Palazzo Grassi in Venice.

1930 - 1940

Giorgio Morandi

Bologne 1890 – 1964



Natura Morta (Still life), 1930
Oil on canvas, 34 x 39 cm

Morandi's work is driven by the constant and obsessive repetition of the same subject, with variations in tones, composition and perspective. However, this still-life is very rare because the composition is presented against a nocturnal background and belongs to a period in the artist's work which is impossible to come by, the interwar years.

Morandi's paintings are featured in many international museums such as the **MoMA** (New York), the **National Gallery of Art** (Washington) and the **Peggy Guggenheim Collection** (Venice). There is also a **Morandi Museum in Bologna** and in 2001/2002 the **Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris** organized a major retrospective.

One of the artist's paintings established a world record at Christie's on 20 June 2012, selling at 1.7 million euros.

1940 – 1950

Wassily Kandinsky

Moscou 1866 – Neuilly sur Seine 1944



Le milieu sombre, 1943
Mixed media on cardboard
42x58 cm

The Kandinsky painting presented by Tornabuoni Art represents **the artist's attempt to go beyond the geometric abstraction he theorized.**

Shown in 11 museums and foundations throughout the world, including the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Guggenheim in New York and the Beyeler Foundation, this painting comes alive in a cosmic world of free-form shapes against a somber background expanding endlessly to cover the entire surface of the canvas, where unreal, fluid objects float like galaxies.

1950 – 1960

Marino Marini

Pistoia 1901 - Viareggio 1980



Cavallo rosso, 1953
Oil on paper laid down on canvas, 150 x 100 cm

Marino Marini's *Cavallo Rosso* is outstanding both for its format and its chromatic power. It is the epitome of the poetics of an artist who, from the 1950s onward, started to translate into various structures the equestrian figures for which he is famous today.

1960 – 1970

Lucio Fontana

Rosario Santa Fè 1899 – Comabbio 1968



Concetto spaziale (Concept Spatial), 1964
Oil and graffiti on canvas, 82 x 65 cm

Tornabuoni Art, a prominent specialist of Lucio Fontana, has selected an iconic piece from the 1960s. In it, Lucio Fontana, **acknowledged today as one of the greatest masters of the 20th century**, mixes spatialism, the movement he founded, with the grand Baroque Italian tradition through the use of gold.

This work also introduces the oval shape, scratched directly on paint, which he will develop independently towards the end of his life in the famous *“Fine di Dio”* series, renowned for fetching record prices in auction sales.

1970 – 1980

Alighiero e Boetti

Turin 1940 - Rome 1994



Mappa (Carte), 1979
Embroidery on textile, 98 x 164 cm

Alighiero e Boetti's *Mappas*, produced from 1971 to the end of his life, are geopolitical descriptions of the world where nations and flags evolved in the course of political events. The temporal succession of maps becomes a narrative of world order and disorder. Their main characteristic is that they are not produced by the artist himself but embroidered by Afghan women. Excluding the artist from his work by interposing space (Afghanistan) and time (required to carry out the needlework) between them are part of Boetti's concept.

This piece is very rare because it has no borders, in order to symbolize the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. **There are only 5 borderless *Mappas* in the world, and this is the only one on the market.**

1980– 1990

Jean Michel Basquiat

Brooklyn 1960 – SoHo 1988



Untitled, 1984

Acrylic, oil pastel and silkscreen on canvas, 223.5x198 cm

No exhibition of 20th century art can bypass Basquiat, a **heavyweight in the art market**, and the inventor of a novel pictorial language. This piece, dated 1984, belongs to a period considered by connoisseurs to be the most accomplished. Published in every catalogue and monograph on the artist, this work has been exhibited at the IVAM, the Institut d'Art Moderne de Valence, as well as by Jan Krugier and Tony Shafrazi in New York.

1990 – 2000

Arnaldo Pomodoro

Morciano di Romagna (Rimini) 1926



Sfera con sfera (Sphere within sphere), 1995-97
bronze 6/9, cm. diam. 80

Among Italian post-war sculptors, Pomodoro is probably the most internationally renowned: **the artist's monumental sculptures are shown in public spaces in over 40 cities.**

His research on spatiality led him to explore various geometric forms such as spheres, columns, cubes, steles and papyrus, whose integrity he modifies by subtracting matter. Bronze is torn, gashed, and blasted from the inside, disclosing imaginary gears, symbolizing internal life. These sculptures are the result of an outstanding technique and many required several years to produce. **The sphere is the most sought-after shape, a "must-have" for collectors.**



About the Tornabuoni Art Gallery

The Tornabuoni Art Gallery in Paris opened on 1 October 2009 with a highly successful exhibition dedicated to Lucio Fontana, followed by an Alighiero e Boetti retrospective in spring 2010. The gallery boasts a program of retrospectives on major postwar Italian artists, alternating with group shows of fundamental international artists.

Specialized in Italian art from the second half of the 20th century, the gallery offers permanent shows of significant works by the most important artists of the **Novecento**: De Chirico, Morandi, Balla, Severini, and of the **major international avant-garde artists of the 20th century**: Picasso, Mirò, Kandinsky, Hartung, Poliakoff, Dubuffet, Lam, Matta, Christo, Warhol, Wesselmann, Basquiat.

The exhibitions are produced in partnership with Tornabuoni Arte in **Florence**, the first gallery created in 1981 by Roberto Casamonti, in the street that gave its name to the gallery. Tornabuoni Art then opened spaces in **Crans Montana** in 1993, Milan in 1995, **Portofino** in 2001, **Forte Dei Marmi** in 2004, **Venice** in 2005 and lastly **Paris** in 2009, in order to be closer to its clients and to better meet the expectations of international collectors.

Tornabuoni Art participates in international art fairs such as the **FIAC** and **Biennale des Antiquaires** in Paris, **TEFAF** in Maastricht, **Art Basel Miami**, **Art Hong Kong**, **Artefiera** in Bologna and **MiArt** in Milan.