



+



Gian Maria Tosatti

Paradiso

From 22 March to 11 April 2025

11 am - 5 pm

Ex Magazzini Raccordati

Via Ferrante Aporti, 15

Es brent!

From 21 March to 8 May 2025

11 am - 1.30 pm | 2.30 pm - 7 pm

Galleria Lia Rumma

Via Stilicone, 19

Gian Maria Tosatti returns to Milan, two years after the solo show at Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, with a **visionary intervention** on the complex present, organized in two exhibitions that are reflected in each other. *Paradiso* is a site-specific installation with a highly symbolic approach, designed especially for the ex Magazzini Raccordati in Milan Central Railway Station - buildings subject to the heritage regulations of the Sovrintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio - and produced by **Eco Contract + Eco Design and Brembo**, under the patronage of the **Milan City Council** (Comune di Milano). *Es brent!* in turn, marks the first exhibition by the artist to be held at Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan and features paintings and installations made between 2023 and 2025.

“Gian Maria Tosatti’s project represents an important opportunity to reflect on the present through art. With his work, the artist offers a powerful and disenchanted vision of our age, stimulating a profound reflection on our role in contemporary society. - said the Councillor for Culture of the Municipality of Milan, Tommaso Sacchi - The initiative emphasizes the value of art as a tool for awareness and memory, offering a space for research and comparison that interweaves different perspectives. It is important that companies also choose to invest in projects of this level, recognizing in art a cultural value and an opportunity for growth.”

Paradiso is an installation devised and planned as a harrowing, dystopian image of a sky set in this historic present, in which every ideal perspective appears to have collapsed. It is a **monumental environmental work** which unfolds in a space of 3,000 square meters, as a direct attack on the reality and times in which we live. The visitor is presented with a depleted paradise reduced to its skeletal remains, ravaged by time or by something that has slowly consumed it. The seven vaults of heaven have half-collapsed due to leaking water, patched up with insulating materials. The seven large rooms where the hierarchy of angels reside are empty, inhabited by tramps wrapped in their mylar blankets. As one walks through the exhibition, amid filthy latrines and puddles beside mounds of snow, one has the sinister sensation that everything we see is the result of an act of violence. A marble wall, on which all the names of the angels are engraved, is broken into fragments. In the last room, behind a large iron portal, an underground track evokes an indelible image in collective memory: the railway tracks that vanish into the night and lead to the concentration camps.

The exhibition *Es brent!* at Galleria Lia Rumma takes this metaphorical horizon into a more intimate, earthly dimension. The title, taken from a Yiddish song of 1938, involves the visitor directly in a prophecy. “Our city is burning”, reads the text, “and you watch with your arms folded”. Outside the gallery, six large transparent banners dominate, hanging from high masts. The works made in 2025, which form part of the cycle “Fondamenta”, allude to the invisibility and unrecognizable nature of the powers that have governed the world since 1945 to the present. In the entrance hall, a large modern neon sign, mounted on a typical advertising structure, conveys the ambiguous relationship between the dreams of society and their consequences. On the first floor, several paintings from the series “Fireworks” are inspired by night-time footage of bombed cities and the launch of missiles. On the upper floor a new cycle of paintings leads us to the inner dimensions of our experience of time, while several installations reveal how reality is stratified, creating existential enigmas in our everyday lives.

As the artist himself states, “*Paradiso* is a piercing metaphor of a time in which human beings have slowly ascended the sky only to ravage, disown and empty it. It is an analogy of the gradual destruction of every ideal, even that of democracy, of the poisoning of the very concept of sacred in the society of indifference. *Paradiso* is a cruel, disenchanted vision of a world that no longer believes in itself, nor in an ideal horizon, and inhabits a dark, desolate land on which the sky has fallen in shattered fragments.”

On Friday, 21 March 2025, at 6.30 pm a conversation will be held between the artist and Vittorio Lingiardi at the **Fondazione Memoriale della Shoah**, Piazza Edmond Jacob Safra no. 1, 20125 Milan.

Paradiso is produced by:

Eco Contract+Eco Design and Brembo, two firms that already collaborated with each other in 2024 and which seek to enhance art as a narrative tool, combining culture and architecture, and creating a dialogue between past and future in which art becomes a medium for describing urban renewal. Through this initiative, Eco Contract+Eco Design aim to display the Magazzini Raccordati, which will undergo major redevelopment, and raise public awareness about the process of salvaging this historic area, restoring it for the city with a new identity: their new premises. For Brembo, the work is part of the path embarked upon by the company several years ago, inspired by the vision “Turning Energy into Inspiration”, which promotes passion through art and design, embracing new challenges and venturing into different territories from the automotive industry to artistic creativity, simultaneously reinforcing the link between the company and the community with a long-lasting, meaningful impact.

The project was realized thanks to the collaboration with students of the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera and Politecnico di Milano.

Paradiso will be open by invitation from 22 March to 11 April 2025, every day from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm (last entry at 4.30 pm). Free entry limited to five people at a time.

Es brent! will be open to the public from 21 March to 8 May 2025. Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

The song *El Mole Rahamim* is recorded by Moni Ovadia.

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Gian Maria Tosatti (Rome, 1980) is an Italian visual artist. His poetics involve large-scale investigations into issues linked to the concept of identity, from the political or existential standpoint. The resulting work is permeated by a profound sense of history. He specializes mainly in large-scale site-specific installations designed for whole buildings or urban areas, often involving local communities in the creative process. From 2021 to 2024, he was the artistic director of the Rome Quadriennale. He is a lead writer for *Corriere della Sera* and *Il Sole24Ore* newspapers and works with several specialist magazines. He is the founder and editor of the institutional magazines *La differenza* and *Quaderni d'arte italiana*. His works have been exhibited in leading international museums and galleries such as the Pirelli Hangar Bicocca (Milan, 2023), the 59th Venice Biennale (Venice, 2022), the Hessel Museum of CCS BARD (New York, 2024), the Museo di Capodimonte (Naples, 2023), Museo MADRE (Naples, 2016), Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York, 2011), Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (Rome, 2017), Petah Tikva Museum of Art (Israel, 2017), Museo Archeologico di Salerno (2014), American Academy in Rome (2013), Museo Villa Croce (Genoa, 2012), Palazzo delle Esposizioni (Rome, 2008), Chelsea Art Museum (New York, 2009), and BJCEM (2014).

Eco Contract + Eco Design

Eco Contract + Eco Design is a company of national and international standing that specializes in interior and exterior finishes. Thanks to its expertise and vision geared towards innovation, it has operated successfully in the hotel, office, shipping, railway, and retail sectors. The focus on design and quality is combined with the continuous search for state-of-the-art solutions, offering highly personalized materials that meet specific requirements. Sustainability guides every production choice, with a responsible approach that reduces the impact on the environment and enhances residential wellbeing. The passion for excellence is transformed into a tailor-made approach for architecture, offering state-of-the-art solutions in the world of design and finishes, with its partners Amtico, Ege Carpets, Foglie d'Oro, Living Ceramics | Lithotech, MFlor, Sesia&Co., and Delta Dore.

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Brembo

Brembo is a global leader in the design and production of high-performance braking systems and components for leading manufacturers of cars, motorcycles, and commercial vehicles. Founded in Italy in 1961, Brembo is renowned for its innovative solutions and is also a key player in the most demanding motorsports championships in the world, where it has won over 700 titles. Guided by its strategic vision “Turning Energy into Inspiration”, Brembo aims to help shape the future of transport through state-of-the-art digital and sustainable solutions with unmistakable design.

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