



THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE PRESENTED AT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN PARIS

MAXXI and Fondazione Bvlgari join forces to support young talents in the arts

**The three finalists selected by the international jury are
CHIARA BERSANI, ADJI DIEYE, MARGHERITA MOSCARDINI**

**In autumn 2026, their site-specific works will be exhibited at MAXXI
The jury will select the winner, whose work will be acquired by the Museum**

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Paris, 24 October 2025. **Chiara Bersani, Adjie Dieye, Margherita Moscardini** are the three shortlisted artists for the fifth edition of **MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE**, the project for the support and promotion of young artists that brings together **MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Arts** and **Fondazione Bvlgari**, which has launched numerous talents on the international scene over the years.

Their names were announced this evening during a special event at the **Italian Cultural Institute in Paris** by **Maria Emanuela Bruni**, President of Fondazione MAXXI, **Matteo Morbidi**, Director of Fondazione Bvlgari and **Francesco Stocchi**, Artistic Director of MAXXI, introduced by **Stefano Questioli**, Cultural attaché of the Italian Cultural Institute, who conveyed the greetings of the Institute's Director **Antonio Calbi**.

Two of the three artists, Adjie Dieye and Margherita Moscardini, were present (while Chiara Bersani was unfortunately unable to attend due to the imminent debut of her new production *Michel, the Animals I Am*) along with representatives of the jury.

In **autumn 2026**, the site-specific works created specifically for the Prize will be featured in an exhibition at **MAXXI** curated by **Giulia Ferracci**.

At the end of the exhibition project, the jury will select the **winner, whose work will be acquired** by the Museum.

Maria Emanuela Bruni, President of Fondazione MAXXI, stated: "Art is one of the languages through which a country tells its story — its history and its ability to imagine the future. Thanks to the MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE, the future takes shape through the vision, ideas and courage of a new generation of Italian artists. This year, for the first time, the finalists are three women who — through their intelligence and creative strength — embody this vitality at its best. Promoting and disseminating Italian contemporary art is our mission, one we carry out with great responsibility. I want to thank the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris for making this meeting possible, and Fondazione Bvlgari, our long-standing partner with whom we share essential values, for its precious and constant support".

Matteo Morbidi, Director of Fondazione Bvlgari, added: "This edition of the MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE marks a particularly significant moment for us. On the tenth anniversary of its establishment, we are proud to announce that the Prize now becomes part of the initiatives promoted by Fondazione Bvlgari. Created to ensure continuity and coherence in Bvlgari's longstanding support for artistic heritage and creative expression, Fondazione Bvlgari promotes a fertile and ongoing exchange of ideas among young talents through its numerous international initiatives. With our commitment, and in accordance with the spirit that has always animated the MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE, we are proud to act as a catalyst for new expressions of contemporary art".

Francesco Stocchi, Artistic Director of MAXXI, concluded: "Now in its fifth edition, the MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE confirms its role as a key reference in promoting Italian art, supporting research and experimentation that reflect on contemporary urgencies. An international jury of curators and directors from leading Italian and international institutions has selected this year's finalists—Chiara Bersani, Adjie Dieye and Margherita Moscardini—whose work respectively places the body, memory and space at the centre as instruments of identity's construction. Today marks the beginning of a journey of research and dialogue within MAXXI's spaces, accompanying the artists in the production of new works and contributing to broaden the multifaceted portrait of Italian contemporary art, while consolidating the Prize's role as a platform for supporting creativity".

MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE

MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE 2026: FINALISTS

Chiara Bersani (San Rocco al Porto, Lodi, 1984) is a performer, choreographer, and visual artist working in the fields of Performing Arts, experimental theatre, and contemporary dance.

Her artistic research stems from the concept of the *Political Body*, emphasizing the specificity of her own body as an expressive and poetic instrument. Her aesthetic is rooted in the ground of experimentation that restores visibility to the uniqueness of bodies, challenging stereotypical narratives and representations of disability. She has been selected by the jury “for her powerful transformative capacity: her body does not stop at mere presence but becomes voice and space for reflection, turning into a political subject. Gentle Unicorn stands as an emblematic example of the body as an anarchic device, subverting norms of control and aesthetic discipline. Her practice goes beyond testimony, activating a critical space where corporeality becomes a strategy of resistance and a catalyst for community.”

Adji Dieye (Milano, 1991) is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Milan and Dakar. Her research investigates how notions of representation and identity shape the socio-political structures of the contemporary world.

Through the analysis of advertising, architecture, and national archives, Dieye explores the aesthetics that inform ideas of self-determination and collective identity. Photography plays a central role in her practice — both as a versatile medium and as a critical tool to question processes of representation and othering between Western and non-Western societies.

According to the jury: “Her work blurs the sharp lines between documentary and invention, inviting viewers to take an active and responsible approach to the history of her homeland, Senegal. On one hand, she addresses political issues such as decolonisation through layered whispers made up of events excluded or forgotten by history. On the other hand, photography serves as a tool within a broader network of practices that together articulate postcolonial landscapes, memories and silences.”

Margherita Moscardini (Livorno, 1981) deals with processes of urban, social, and natural transformation in specific areas, which serve as inspiration for her multidimensional works. With the complicity of law, her practice imagines alternative ways of inhabiting space.

Her work spans various fields including architecture, the city, and citizenship, aiming to generate sculptures conceived as inhabitable objects and spaces that distance themselves from the sovereignty of the nation-state in which they are located. The jury stated: “Moscardini’s practice is grounded in a rigorous interweaving of theory and form: her work does not evolve from space itself but interrogates it for its urban, architectural and social meaning. In her interventions, classical models are not merely historical references but conceptual materials to be deconstructed, reassembled and reconsidered in light of the right to inhabit, and the relationships between inside and outside, boundary and openness. Her works reveal how architecture shapes not only the physical landscape but also our perception of self and others.”

MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE INTERNATIONAL JURY

The international jury for this edition was composed of **Francesco Stocchi**, MAXXI Artistic Director; **Micol Forti**, Director of the Contemporary Art Collection - Vatican Museums and Director at MART in Rovereto; **Adam Kleinman**, Director and Chief Curator - Kunsthall Trondheim; **Beatrix Ruf**, Director - Hartwig Art Foundation; **Rein Wolfs**, Direttore - Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

The jury selected the finalists from a shortlist of candidates identified by leading figures on the contemporary art scene in Italy, including curators, researchers, critics and journalists.

This year's candidates were nominated by **Lucia Aspesi**, **Matteo Binci**, **Christian Caliandro**, **Frida Carazzato**, **Treti Galaxie**, **Emanuele Guidi**, **Denis Isaia**, **Marta Papini**, **Anna Santomauro**.



HISTORY OF THE PRIZE

The Prize, created in 2000 as 'Premio per la Giovane Arte', forms the core of the MAXXI Collection. Over the years, it has been an essential springboard for many artists. Finalists from previous editions include **Yuri Ancarani, Giorgio Andreotta Calò, Massimo Bartolini, Vanessa Beecroft, Rossella Biscotti, Patrizio Di Massimo, Lara Favaretto, Marinella Senatore, Nico Vascellari, and Francesco Vezzoli.**

With the 2018 edition, it became the **MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE**, as transformed and strengthened thanks to the precious support of Bulgari, projecting itself even further on the international art scene.

In 2018, the first edition of the **MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE** was won by **Diego Marcon**, finalist together with **Talia Chetrit** and **Invernomuto**. The 2020 edition was won by **Tomaso De Luca**, finalist together with **Giulia Cenci** and **Renato Leotta**. The 2022 edition was won by **Alessandra Ferrini**, finalist with **Silvia Rosi** and **Namsal Siedlecki**. The last edition in 2024 was won by **Monia Ben Hamouda**, finalist with **Riccardo Benassi** and **Binta Diaw**.

With the **MAXXI BVLGARI PRIZE** the partnership between **MAXXI** and **Fondazione Bulgari** – based on shared values such as excellence, innovation, passion, creativity and experimentation and on an awareness of the importance of support for culture and the strategic role of the public-private alliance – is being renewed and consolidated.

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