



Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali  
Soprintendenza speciale per il patrimonio storico,  
artistico ed etnoantropologico e  
per il polo museale della città di Roma



MUSEO NAZIONALE  
DELLE ARTI  
DEL XXI SECOLO

GALLERIA • BORGHESE



Opening of the fourth exhibition of  
**COMMITENZE CONTEMPORANEE**  
a collaboration project between  
Galleria Borghese, Fondazione MAXXI and UniCredit Group

## NEDKO SOLAKOV

Rome, Uccelliera di Villa Borghese  
20<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010



Nedko Solakov, *The Passage (a commissioned art work's story)*, 2010, mixed media, dimensions variable  
Collezione UniCredit Group, courtesy Galleria Continua, San Gimignano/Beijing/Le Moulin  
Photo Nedko Solakov

### Press Release

Rome, April 2010. The Bulgarian artist **Nedko Solakov** is the protagonist of the fourth exhibition event to be held in the rooms of the Uccelliera di Galleria Borghese as part of the **Committenze Contemporanee** project, which invites the public to experience and reflect on the important heritage of the *Galleria Borghese* collection.

Ten exhibitions were designed to encourage in-depth studies of the most important works and critical issues of the Collection. It was with the same purpose of study and understanding of the past through the contemporary world that the idea behind the *Committenze Contemporanee* came about.

The chosen artists and their works, especially created for this project, mustn't clash in terms of content, style or expressive language with the work of the masters they are associated with but, if anything, should share only conceptual references, for the element that unites the artists of the past with those of the present is the concept of commissioning. In other words it's a question of rethinking the active role of commissioning in the contemporary age, as well as completing the primary mission of the Museum, which is to implement an active approach to conservation, leading to the protection, renewal and display of its own heritage.



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The work is commissioned by **Galleria Borghese**, **Fondazione MAXXI Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo** and **UniCredit & Art**, the project that the UniCredit Group dedicates to the promotion of artistic research and the spread of contemporary artistic languages throughout Europe. In this innovative partnership formula between public and private institutions, a **joint commission, made up of Anna Coliva, Head of the Galleria Borghese, Anna Mattiolo, Head of MAXXI Arte, and Walter Guadagnini, Chair of the Scientific Committee of "UniCredit & Art"**, selects an artist for this special project every year.

The artist chosen for this fourth edition is **Nedko Solakov**, a key figure on the international scene, who also exhibited at numerous events including the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale, where he received the "Honourable Mention in the central international exhibition", and at Documenta 12 in Kassel. Solakov has created an installation which, like the previous projects by Vedovamazzei, Giulio Paolini and Hans Op de Beeck, will be given on a long-term loan basis by UniCredit Group to Fondazione MAXXI of Rome in order to make up a coherent nucleus within the Museum collection.

The **Committenze Contemporanee** project is conceived by **Anna Coliva**.

The exhibition is curated by **Laura Barreca**, on behalf of the **Fondazione MAXXI**.

Ever since the '80s, Solakov has adopted a direct and often ironic artistic language, both in his large-scale installations and in his small-format drawings: the artist tells stories and anecdotes that reflect on details of contemporary life, narratives that sum up the contradictions of existence through the representation of situations, reflections, vicissitudes, expectations, successes and failures.

*The Passage (a commissioned art work's story)* project by Nedko Solakov was especially created for *Committenze Contemporanee*. The work is a reflection on the ideal encounter between two masters from the history of art, which took place in the great exhibition at the *Galleria Borghese* on **Caravaggio** and **Bacon**, which closed recently. The Solakov project is the result of a series of events following the artist from the moment of the commission to the public display of the work. The production of the work is bound up in a highly personal event in the life of the artist (the recent loss of his father). The "passage" is, thus, the telling of the particularly intense historic moment that Nedko Solakov has undergone over the last few months, marked by a deep reflection on the sense of life and death, on the past and future. The installation is made up of paintings, resting on painter's easels, on the two sides of the *Uccelli*, accompanied by the joyful presence of characteristic "fellows", symbols of an optimistic and ironic outlook.

Nedko Solakov's style is characterised by the use of a sharp and subversive language which always seems to put the onlooker to the test along with his/her reactions to the work, to the exhibition space, making him/her wonder about the meaning of art, as well as the mechanisms that regulate expression within the system.

On the occasion of this exhibition, the initiative entitled "**I Giovedì del Contemporaneo**" makes its return, a cycle of free talks that introduce the public to the works of Nedko Solakov, offering a reading capable of stimulating visitors' own personal interpretations.

The talks are promoted in collaboration with IED European Institute of Design of Rome.



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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Since the beginning of the 1990s, Nedko Solakov (born 1957, Tcherven Briag, Bulgaria; lives in Sofia) has exhibited extensively in Europe and the United States. His work has been presented to: Aperto '93 (Venice Biennial); the 48th, 49th, 50th and 52nd Venice Biennial; the 3rd, 4th and 9th Istanbul Biennial; São Paulo (1994); Manifesta 1 in Rotterdam; the 2nd and 4th Gwangju Biennial; the 5th Lyon Biennial; Sonsbeek 9 in Arnhem; the 4th and 5th Cetinje Biennial; the 1st Lodz Biennial; the 7th Sharjah Biennial (United Arab Emirates); the 3rd Tirana Biennial; the 2nd Seville Biennial; the 2nd Moscow Biennial; Documenta 12 in Kassel; 16th Sydney Biennial; Prospect 1 in New Orleans Biennial.

He had solo shows at: Museu do Chiado in Lisbon (2002), Stichting De Appel in Amsterdam (2002), CCA Kitakyushu in Japan (2002), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid (2003), The Israel Museum in Jerusalem (2003), Centre d'Art Santa Monica in Barcelona (2004), Kunsthaus in Zurich (2005), Castello di Rivoli (2009), Sofia City Art Gallery (2009). In 2003-2005 he presented the mid-career "A 12 1/3 (and even more) Year Survey" at Casino Luxembourg, Rooseum Malmoe and O.K Centrum in Linz. In 2008-2009 the "Emotions" solo project was exhibited at: Kunstmuseum in Bonn, Kunstmuseum in St. Gallen, Mathildenhoehe in Darmstadt. In 2011 he held a solo exhibition at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham and in 2012 at the S.M.A.K. in Ghent and at the Fundação de Serralves in Porto.

[www.nedkosolakov.net](http://www.nedkosolakov.net)

## Technical Notes

<b>Project</b>	Committenze Contemporanee
<b>Ideation</b>	Anna Coliva
<b>Exhibition</b>	Nedko Solakov, <i>The Passage (a commissioned art work's story)</i>
<b>Curated by</b>	Laura Barreca
<b>Venue</b>	Uccelliera di Villa Borghese, Galleria Borghese Piazzale Scipione Borghese 5, Rome (I)
<b>When</b>	from 20 <sup>th</sup> May – 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2010
<b>Promoted by</b>	Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities Special Superintendence of the PSAE and of the Museums of Rome Galleria Borghese MAXXI_National Museum of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Art UniCredit & Art
<b>Organization</b>	Maria Assunta Sorrentino – Galleria Borghese Mondomostre
<b>Press Conference</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 11.30 am
<b>Opening</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7 pm



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by invitation only, conversation with Nedko Solakov

**Opening Times**

From Tuesday to Sunday, 9 am to 7 pm  
Closed on Mondays

**Tickets**

Full price € 8.50 for the exhibition and the Galleria Borghese + booking  
fee € 2.00  
Booking is obligatory: ph. +39 06 32810 or visit [www.ticketeria.it](http://www.ticketeria.it)

**Teaching Project**

"I Giovedì del Contemporaneo"  
in collaboration with IED European Institute of Design of Rome  
every Thursday until 30 September (except 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August) at 7  
pm, free entrance.  
To book: [giovedidelcontemporaneo@roma.ied.it](mailto:giovedidelcontemporaneo@roma.ied.it)

**Information**

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Booking is obligatory: ph. +39 06 32810

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