



PRESS RELEASE, March 2026

Picasso, Morandi, Parmiggiani

Still Lives

curated by Cécile Debray

May 7 - July 25, 2026

Press preview: May 5 - 6, 2026

Istituzione Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa
Galleria di Piazza San Marco, 71/C, 30124, Venice

On the occasion of the 61st Venice Biennale, the **Istituzione Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa**, with the collaboration and scientific support of the **Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia**, presents **Picasso, Morandi, Parmiggiani: Still Lives**, an exhibition initiated and organized by **Tornabuoni Art**, with the exceptional participation of the Musée national Picasso-Paris, and curated by **Cécile Debray**, President of the museum.

The exhibition will take place from **May 7 to July 25, 2026**, at the **Galleria di Piazza San Marco**, the main venue of the Istituzione Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa.

Three masters of modern art, three distinct approaches to the object. Drawing from a focused and carefully curated selection of still lifes by **Pablo Picasso** (1881-1973), **Giorgio Morandi** (1890-1964), and **Claudio Parmiggiani** (b. 1943), the exhibition opens a **dialogue on representation itself**, capturing and mediating reality through the staging of objects within the laboratory of the artist's studio.

From **Picasso's bricolage, assemblages and deconstructions**, which develop a new pictorial language while reviving the subject of *memento mori* and **Morandi's surprising and serial compositions** of ordinary bottles arranged and rearranged on the shelves of the artist's studio as timeless and metaphysical motifs, to **Parmiggiani's works—smoke-shadows of objects**—all are reflections on absence and disappearance, offering a contemporary reinterpretation of the *Vanitas* genre.

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Fourteen masterpieces from the Musée national Picasso-Paris will be on view, retracing the Spanish master's investigation of the object from Cubism through to the 1950s. They will be shown alongside **an equal number of paintings by Morandi** from prestigious public and private collections in Italy and abroad.

Among them, **a 1914 Cubist still life**—a singular masterpiece **from the collections of the Centre Pompidou**—marks a striking first point of convergence between the two painters. Alongside these works from public collections are several rediscoveries, including **a rarely exhibited Morandi painting from 1945–46**, which the artist presented at the 1962 Biennale and which **returns to Venice for the first time**. Also on view is **a group of objects from Morandi's studio**—carafes, vases, dried flowers—exhibited for the first time to offer a moving glimpse into the intimate space of the artist's studio and shed light on his distinctive creative process in constructing his motif (objects collected, repainted, and arranged with great precision).

Parmiggiani frequented Morandi's studio during his studies, and an undeniable spiritual affinity links the two artists, most notably through the *Delocazioni*. **The artist has created a monumental *Delocazione* specifically for the exhibition**. Several **sculptures from the artist's studio** trace the full arc of his practice from the 1970s onwards. These works—assemblages, reliefs, and sculptures—resonate both with the themes and with the processes at work in Picasso's *œuvre*.

Through poetic and formal correspondences between the works, the curator invites visitors on **a contemplative journey through the still life as a pictorial genre**, opening up a reflection on time, reality, and art, as well as on the work of three major artists, past and present.

Following the exhibitions dedicated to Alighiero Boetti, Emilio Isgrò, and Alberto Burri, organized by **Tornabuoni Art** at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini in 2017 and 2019, this thematic exhibition continues the trajectory of *On Fire* (2022), which for the first time brought together six modern and contemporary masters around the theme of fire as a means of creation.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a **fully illustrated catalogue** published by Forma Edizioni and edited by **Cécile Debray**, assisted by Elizabeth de Bertier (Tornabuoni Art). It will include essays by Cécile Debray, **Lorenzo Balbi**, Director of **Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (MAMbo)**, and **Bruno Corà**, President of **Fondazione Burri**.

Images: Pablo Picasso, *Nature Morte: buste, coupe et palette*, 1932 © Succession Picasso 2026; Giorgio Morandi, *Natura morta*, 1963 (detail) © Adagg, Paris, 2026; Claudio Parmiggiani, *Senza titolo*, 2019 (detail).

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