

The CRT Foundation lights up Turin with two new Luci d'Artista

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The Fondazione CRT, a long-standing supporter of Luci d'Artista, continues to illuminate Turin with new projects combining art, innovation, and participation. Of the four light installations that become part of the artistic heritage of the 28th edition, **two bear the signature of the Fondazione CRT, together with Fondazione Arte CRT and OGR Torino**: the prestigious neon artwork *Sex and Solitude* by **Tracey Emin**—donated to the City of Turin by **Fondazione Arte CRT** to mark its 25th anniversary—and the special **OGR Torino** project *Mummer Love*, which will enliven the monumental courtyard with a work by **Soundwalk Collective** in collaboration with **Patti Smith** and **Philip Glass**.

“With two new light installations donated to the community, the CRT Foundation renews and strengthens its historic support for Luci d'Artista,” says Anna Maria Poggi, President of the Fondazione CRT. “These works, created by international artists, reflect the Foundation’s commitment to promoting wonder and participation: Tracey Emin’s poetic neon creation—donated by Fondazione Arte CRT on its twenty-fifth anniversary—and the special OGR Torino project with Soundwalk Collective, alongside Patti Smith and Philip Glass, which transforms the monumental courtyard into an immersive experience. With Luci d'Artista, we aim to keep projecting Turin among the European capitals of contemporary art and creativity.”

Sex and Solitude. A neon piece measuring 106 x 804 cm, featuring the artist’s unmistakable handwriting, will be installed in the Royal Gardens, becoming part of the city’s luminous heritage. Originally created for the exhibition of the same name at Palazzo Strozzi, the work encapsulates the two central themes of Emin’s research—sexuality (sex) and vulnerability (solitude)—expressing through light the emotional intensity and poetic tension that characterize her practice. For the first time in Italy, a work by Tracey Emin will be displayed in a public space and become part of a permanent collection (Luci d'Artista).

For over thirty years, Tracey Emin has used neon as a fundamental expressive medium in her art. Each creation stems from a profound inspiration—a message, a thought, or an emotion. Her first work using this material dates back to 1995. Her connection to neon has its roots in her childhood in Margate, on the Isle of Thanet in Kent, overlooking the North Sea, where neon signs were a familiar feature of the coastal landscape. The artist draws inspiration from these early memories, evoked by the vibrant, shimmering light of the signs. Unlike many artists who, from the 1960s onward, have used neon in standard fonts and impersonal phrases, Tracey Emin takes a radically different approach, distinguished by the use of her own handwriting paired with brief, intense, and deeply personal statements. Her

texts, often incisive and direct, explore themes such as the fragility of love and human existence.

As Emin herself has stated: *“Neon is emotional for everyone. Neon and argon gases make us feel something positive, which is why we find them in amusement parks, casinos, red-light districts, and bars. Neon can even help people who suffer from depression.”*

In her neon installations, Emin distills poetry, mystery, color, and light—making each work an intimate reflection of herself.

Mummer Love. The East Courtyard of OGR Torino, Fondazione CRT’s hub, will light up with Mummer Love, an installation created by Soundwalk Collective together with the “poet of rock” Patti Smith and the master of musical minimalism Philip Glass. The work invites the public on a sensory journey into the poetic world of Arthur Rimbaud, evoking the poet’s African years through field recordings made in his house in Harar, Ethiopia, intertwined with Sufi chants and long piano notes played by Philip Glass. Patti Smith’s voice, reciting verses from *Illuminations*, becomes the guide for a voyage through memory, sound, and spirituality. As Stephan Crasneanski—who, along with Simone Merli, forms Soundwalk Collective—explains, through Sufi chants “one gains access to other levels of the self and consciousness. This connection, like poetry, is a universal language. A language of the soul, for the soul.”

Like an intimate archaeology, Mummer Love transforms the East Courtyard of OGR into a resonant chamber where art, poetry, and sound research merge, and where places and memories transcend time to be reactivated through listening.

Fondazione CRT Established in 1991, the Fondazione CRT is the third-largest Italian banking foundation by assets. For over thirty years, it has supported the communities of Piedmont and Aosta Valley, guided by a belief in care, growth, and wonder—for people and their territory. To date, it has allocated more than €2 billion to the North-West of Italy, enabling over 45,000 projects to support young talents, enhance artistic and cultural heritage, promote research, education, and welfare, protect the environment, foster innovation, and invest in initiatives that generate measurable economic, social, and environmental value. Its mission is clear: to promote sustainable and inclusive development for a fair and responsible future. Among its most significant projects is the regeneration of OGR Torino, transformed from former railway workshops into a permanent laboratory of innovation, culture, and the future.

Fondazione Arte CRT Fondazione Arte CRT—Fondazione CRT’s art-oriented institution, primarily active on a regional and local level—celebrates this year its twenty-fifth anniversary of supporting contemporary art. Since its establishment in 2000, the Foundation has implemented concrete actions to promote talent and enrich cultural heritage, building an extensive contemporary art collection that has become one of the most prestigious in Italy and internationally: over 950 works by around 330 artists, representing a total investment of about €42 million.

OGR Torino OGR Torino, Fondazione's hub, is a unique center for culture and innovation in Europe, dedicated to experimentation: cultural, artistic, and musical within OGR Cult, and scientific, technological, and entrepreneurial within OGR Tech. Originally built in the late 19th century as railway repair workshops, the OGRs—now a landmark of industrial archaeology—stand in the heart of Turin across 35,000 square meters, opening up new horizons for collaboration, creation, and conviviality.

La Fondazione CRT, nata nel 1991, è la terza Fondazione di origine bancaria italiana per entità del patrimonio. Da più di trent'anni è a fianco delle comunità del Piemonte e della Valle d'Aosta perché crede nella cura, nella crescita e nella meraviglia delle persone e del territorio. Sino ad oggi ha destinato al Nord Ovest oltre 2 miliardi di euro, rendendo possibili più di 45.000 progetti per sostenere i giovani talenti, valorizzare il patrimonio artistico e culturale, promuovere la ricerca, la formazione e il welfare, proteggere l'ambiente, stimolare l'innovazione, investire in progetti che generano valore economico, sociale e ambientale misurabile. Con una missione chiara: promuovere uno sviluppo sostenibile e inclusivo, per un futuro equo e responsabile. Tra i progetti più significativi figura la riqualificazione delle OGR Torino, trasformate da officine ferroviarie in laboratorio permanente di innovazione, cultura e futuro.

La Fondazione Arte CRT, ente "art oriented" della Fondazione CRT e principalmente attiva sul territorio regionale e locale, celebra quest'anno i suoi venticinque anni di sostegno all'arte contemporanea. Dalla nascita, nel 2000, la Fondazione mette in campo azioni concrete volte a valorizzare talenti e ad arricchire il patrimonio culturale, e alimenta un'estesa collezione di opere d'arte contemporanea, diventata nel tempo tra le più prestigiose a livello nazionale e internazionale: oltre 950 opere realizzate da circa 330 artisti, per un investimento complessivo di circa 42 milioni di euro.

Le OGR Torino, l'hub della Fondazione CRT, sono un centro di cultura e innovazione unico in Europa, dedicato alla sperimentazione: culturale, artistica e musicale nelle OGR Cult, scientifica, tecnologica e imprenditoriale nelle OGR Tech. Ex officine per la riparazione dei treni nate a fine Ottocento, oggi patrimonio archeologico industriale, sorgono nel cuore di Torino su un'area di 35.000 mq per attivare nuovi orizzonti di collaborazione, creazione e convivialità.