



GIACOMO BALLA'S BAL TIC TAC A GLIMPSE OF FUTURISM RESURFACES AT THE BANK OF ITALY

Press release

Rome, 19 October 2018

An unprecedented discovery: about 80 square metres of original paintings have re-emerged – after almost a century – on the walls and ceilings of the ground floor of the Bank of Italy building at Via Milano 24 which, in the early 1920s, hosted the first futuristic cabaret, Bal Tic Tac, decorated and furnished by Giacomo Balla.

The discovery took place in early 2017, during the preliminary site assessments conducted prior to the restructuring of the building, which the Bank of Italy will use to host a museum area.

Under the supervision of the Rome Monuments and Fine Arts department, in recent months the surviving decorated surfaces of what was Bal Tic Tac's entrance hall have been revealed. It was believed they had been lost forever: in fact, the rooms on the first floor, where the dance hall was located, have been restructured numerous times in the last one hundred years. The ground floor paintings, instead, were partially preserved, painted over and hidden by false ceilings, wallpaper, boiserie walls and several layers of paint.

The decorations, currently being restored, will be left in their original positions and will be accessible to the public in the near future: the rooms where they were found will become part of the Bank of Italy's monetary and financial education museum, scheduled for opening at the end of 2021.

This is also an opportunity to announce the completion of the work to secure the Balla House in Rome's Via Oslavia, which was necessary in view of its opening to the public in the near future. The work was carried out in agreement with the painter's descendants; it was completed thanks to the Bank of Italy's sponsorship and the supervision and cooperation of the Rome Monuments and Fine Arts department.

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