



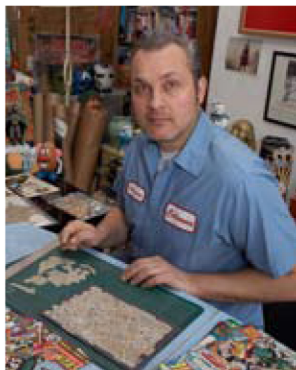
## American icons

London [SHOW]

Artist Ben Turnbull grew up glued to American comics and cult US TV: Marvel and DC, *Captain Scarlet* and *The Six Million Dollar Man*. Rather than throw away those childish things and paint pretty, the London-based artist returns to them with this show that riffs on America's icons and how it presents itself to the rest of us. Lee Harvey Oswald, JFK, Abe and Captain America are rendered in paint, collage, sculpture and installations. Turnbull's a maker as much as an artist and while there's a lot of pop in his work – Lichtenstein, Warhol and John Wesley may feel cosy in his company – there's also a sense that Peter Blake might wander off with some of the work to place in his curiosity cabinet. Turnbull's an art-school dodger who's worked across film production, set design and even restaurant interiors – there's a sense that he thinks with his hands, poignantly. — RB

'American History X' is at Brixton East, London on 3-18 April

[benturnbull.com](http://benturnbull.com)



## WELL HUNG

Viva Italia!

CENTER FOR ITALIAN MODERN ART

NEW YORK

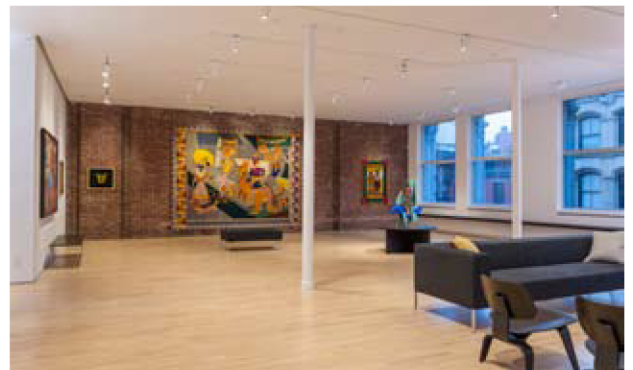
New York-based art historian and curator Laura Mattioli is determined to update the East Coast's knowledge of contemporary Italian art. Last year Italian-born Mattioli founded the Center for Italian Modern Art (CIMA) – a non-profit foundation with post-doctoral scholars working on how 20th century Italian artists have impacted art history. This February saw the opening of CIMA's main gallery to the general public.

"We seek not only to broaden audience's exposure to artists rarely seen outside Italy but also to spur research and institutional attention on their enduring legacy and impact," says Mattioli – the daughter of art collector Gianni Mattioli, whose artwork is on long-term loan at the Guggenheim.

Set in New York's Soho, CIMA is housed in a five-

storey cast-iron 1920s building that has been redesigned by architecture firm IVARCH. The roomy interiors and 400 sq m of exhibition spaces benefit from large windows allowing for maximum light. "CIMA is a critical step in overcoming the obstacles that have prevented an awareness of the significance of modern and contemporary Italian art," says Mattioli, alluding to how Italy's flirtation with fascism left the country's artists isolated in the global art world.

For CIMA's inaugural exhibition, Mattioli has chosen more than 50 paintings, sculptures and tapestries by Trentino-born futurist artist Fortunato Depero (on show until 28 June). He's a fitting choice; he moved to New York in 1928 and became known for his illustrated *New Yorker* covers. "He's a prolific 20th century Italian artist who has made significant contributions to the art movement but has been largely unnoticed by the Western canon of art history," says Mattioli. — JZL [italianmodernart.org](http://italianmodernart.org)



## Bidding in Oz

Melbourne [AUCTION]

Deutscher and Hackett

15 April

Founded seven years ago by Chris Deutscher and Damian Hackett, the Deutscher and Hackett auction house has two venues in Sydney and Melbourne. Last year they sold 10 works by UK painter Bridget Riley for AU\$984,000 (€648,000) against an estimate of AU\$60,000–AU\$80,000 (€40,000–€53,000).

This April in Melbourne the former chairman of Christie's Australia, Roger McLroy, will head the venture's newest auction where more than 200 attendees will bid for 150 pieces with an estimated total value of AU\$6m (€3.9m). The offerings include works by post-war Australian masters such as Arthur Boyd and Jeffrey Smart as well

as contemporary paintings by New Zealand's Colin McCahon and Bill Hammond. One of the key works is "Heart" by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. "Given consistently strong auction results for Kusama in Asia, Europe and the US, we expect fierce international competition here as well," says Deutscher. — VL [deutscherandhackett.com](http://deutscherandhackett.com)

The highlights:

**Jeffrey Smart (top)**

*The Large Tanker, 1984*

Oil on canvas

Estimate: AU\$150,000–

AU\$200,000 (€99,000–€131,000)

**Yayoi Kusama (bottom)**

*Heart, 2007*

Synthetic polymer paint on canvas

Estimate: AU\$350,000–

AU\$450,000 (€230,000–€296,000)

