

Reliving Boccioni at the UN

Joelle Grosso (October 05, 2016)



The art exhibition “Dynamism and Elasticity: Umberto Boccioni 100” will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from October 3rd to October 7th.

On Monday, [“Dynamism and Elasticity: Umberto Boccioni 100”](#) [2] commenced with the Italian Ambassador, [Sebastiano Cardi](#) [3], who spoke about the significance of this particular exhibition, given that it features pieces that are considered to be part of a turning point in art history around the world. He also thanked the people of Rappresentanza Italiana who work at the [United Nations](#) [4] for hosting the event and making it all possible. Cardi then went on to introduce Culture Councillor, Filippo del Corno, who explained how [Umberto Boccioni](#) [5] was one of the most influential artists that helped start the [Futurism](#) [6] movement.



Futurism was an avant-garde movement that began in the early 20th century and featured themes of modernity and innovation. Boccioni lived from 1882 to 1916 and was one of the pioneers who played a huge role in shaping this radical new movement. Del Corno says that Boccioni is the protagonist of this exhibition because his work embodies the power of innovation as well as the Italian soul. The artist approaches two fundamental themes in his work: dynamism, which represents the spirit and elasticity, which represents energy.

Federica Olivares, who created this cultural diplomacy project then went on to explain the reasons why Futurism is just so precious. The first being that it represents the main artistic avant-garde style that came out in the 20th century, which is often recognized as the dawn of modernity. The second reason is an economic one because these works of art are insured for over 30 million euro. The last reason is that this movement represents the distinctive identity of Italy, their legacy, the values they contribute to the world as well as the gift of innovation through a change of perspective.

Olivares also says that this exhibition is “a perfect example of cultural diplomacy.” Being held at the United Nations, it acts as a global icebreaker that can both tear down walls and build bridges. She believes that it is important because it “fosters mutual understanding between different cultures with the language of art, music, science and it also reveals the spirit of the country.” There are still a couple more days left to enjoy this exhibition so if you are in the New York City area, be sure to pay a visit to the United Nations headquarters.

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Links

[1] <http://test.casaitaliananyu.org/files/unjpg-1>

[2] http://www.italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/resource/doc/2016/09/folder-boccioni_onu.pdf

[3] http://www.italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/la_rappresentanza_ambasciatore

[4] <http://www.un.org/en/index.html>

[5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umberto_Boccioni

[6] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurism>