



A Change of Art

Discover new and notable art at Rome's most prestigious private gallery. **Tiffany Parks** investigates.

Need a break from the constant diet of old-school art and ancient ruins you've been on since your arrival in Rome? Enter **Gagosian Gallery**. One of the most important private contemporary art galleries on the world stage, the Gagosian has been around for nearly four decades. American art dealer Larry Gagosian opened his first gallery in Los Angeles in 1980, where he exhibited works by young, promising artists such as Michel de Basquiat, David Salle, and Eric Fischl. Following closely on its heels was the opening of the New York space in 1986, which focused on the burgeoning Pop Art and Abstract Expressionist styles, showcasing the likes of Roy Lichtenstein and Willem de Kooning. Over the next three decades, Gagosian opened locations in Beverly Hills, London, Paris, Geneva, San Francisco, Athens, and Hong

Kong, collaborating with some of the most respected architects of the moment, including Richard Meier, Richard Gluckman, and Jean Nouvel, and continuing to champion the works of some of the greatest artists of our era. Gagosian opened his Rome location in 2007 inside what was once a bank dating to 1921. Rome-based architect Firouz Galdo, in collaboration with Caruso St. John, thoroughly redesigned the building, transforming the classical space into a modern gallery, while nevertheless retaining its Roman character. The gallery was inaugurated with an exhibition of new pieces by Cy Twombly, and has continued to feature the works of the heavy-weights of the contemporary art world over its eleven years of life. This month, the gallery is showcasing the works of Japanese potter **Shio**

Kusaka. Born in Morioka, Japan in 1972, the Los Angeles-based artist creates ceramic vases that Architectural Digest has called, "mesmerizing," "poetic," and "seductive." Her works can be found in many prestigious collections, from the Museum Voorlinden in the Netherlands to LA's The Broad, Oberlin's Allen Memorial Art Museum, and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, KS. While her pieces feature a combination of abstraction and representation, this show is the first to focus exclusively on her abstract work—and it is also her first in Italy. The works on display are all variations on the form of the vase, drawn and etched with continuous geodesic lines that mimic the irregularities of the hand-drawn line. By allowing the three-dimensionality of each vase to determine the concentric curves of the lines, Kusaka unites the primary art forms of drawing and sculpting. **Via Francesco Crispi, 16. Tel 0642086498. gagosian.com**

