FONDAZIONE OFFICINE SAFFI

Tacchini

Milan, 3 September 2026

Introducing Premio Tacchini, a new award presented in collaboration with Fondazione Officine Saffi
Presented at the sixth edition of the Officine Saffi Award, entitled Forms of Belonging, this new prize from Tacchini recognizes contemporary artistic research, design culture and the domestic space.

Tacchini and Fondazione Officine Saffi unite around a shared vision of materials. Materials are not mere elements to be shaped, but rather a field of research, memory and expression. Tacchini's approach to design and manufacturing is rooted in an ongoing dialogue between the tradition of the great masters and contemporary design vernaculars. It finds a natural affinity with Fondazione Officine Saffi's work in the field of ceramics and helps to foster a dialogue between art, craftsmanship and design. Born out of this shared understanding, the Premio Tacchini brings together contemporary artistic research, design culture and the domestic space while opening up Casa Tacchini to new forms of expression.

Officine Saffi Award is an international biennial award dedicated to contemporary ceramics. For its sixth edition, entitled Forms of Belonging, 28 finalists have been selected from more than 1,000 applications from 41 countries across five continents. The works explore the human need for belonging and the ability of materials to preserve and convey gestures, relationships as well as individual and collective memories.

Among the 28 finalists, Tacchini, with the curatorial support of Fondazione Officine Saffi, selected Bisila Noha (1988) because of her remarkable ability to explore materials and the relationship between human beings, artistic expression and design. Through ceramics, the artist touches on identity, memory and belonging, transforming matter into a means of storytelling and a connection between personal experience and collective memory.

The Premio Tacchini takes shape:
an exhibition dedicated to Bisila Noha at Casa Tacchini

The Premio Tacchini is not conceived as a purely symbolic award, but as a concrete opportunity for visibility, dialogue and research. From 1 October to 13 November 2026, the winner will present a selection of her works at Casa Tacchini as part of a temporary exhibit jointly developed by the artist, Tacchini and Fondazione Officine Saffi, which is in charge of its curation and organizational coordination. The exhibit dedicated to Bisila Noha at Casa Tacchini will offer the public a continuation of the Officine Saffi Award 6 – Forms of Belonging exhibition, which will be on view concurrently in Milan at the Officine Saffi Foundation and which will present the works of the finalists of the international award dedicated to contemporary ceramics.
The exhibition will bring Bisila Noha's work into dialogue with the domestic dimension of the spaces, opening a new chapter in Tacchini's ongoing exploration of the relationship between design and contemporary artistic practices.
In the heart of Brera, the apartment in Largo Treves confirms its vocation as a home open to encounters between different languages and disciplines. The domestic living dimension of Casa Tacchini becomes a space for research and cultural exchange, capable of welcoming different stories, sensibilities and perspectives.

"When we imagined Casa Tacchini, we thought of a place that could go beyond presenting our products: a domestic space capable of welcoming different stories, people and languages. The collaboration with Fondazione Officine Saffi in creating the Premio Tacchini stems precisely from the desire to bring design into dialogue with other forms of creative expression, recognizing the material as a common element. Likewise, we were struck by Bisila's ability to transform ceramics into storytelling, memory and identity."

Giusi Tacchini

"Tacchini's collaboration contributes to the mission of the Officine Saffi Award by joining a network of cultural institutions, companies, educational and research centers whose commitment to the project translates into countless opportunities for artists. The exhibition that Tacchini is dedicating to Bisila Noha at its space in Largo Treves also represents an important opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the artist's work

within an intimate, domestic setting where her works will be presented."
Laura Borghi

The winner, Bisila Noha, between materials, memory and belonging

Bisila Noha is a Spanish and Equatoguinean ceramic artist, researcher and writer based in London. Her multidisciplinary practice spans ceramics, sculpture and writing, exploring themes of identity, memory and belonging while examining the relationship between materials, history and community.
Through her research, Noha challenges Western perspectives on art and craft and reflects on the concepts of home, connection and shared knowledge. Her work is also rooted in direct experiences with different ceramic communities, bringing visibility to knowledge, stories and traditions that have often been marginalized. There is particular attention paid to the contribution of Black women to the history of art and craft production.

Ceramics thus become a means of reactivating the memory held within materials. From vessels that evoke the history of clay and the practices that have shaped it, to sculptures made from different materials, each work establishes a connection between personal experience and collective memory, linking the artist to her roots and to those who came before her.

Alongside her artistic practice, Bisila Noha is strongly committed to feminist activism and the promotion of rights and inclusivity. With a background in Translation and International Relations, she is Chief Executive at the
London LGBTQ+ Community Centre, co-directs the art and activist organization Sheroes Collective, and is a trustee of Women in Tri UK, an organization committed to making triathlons more inclusive. Her works are featured in the collections of many institutions, including the Victoria and Albert Museum, National Museums Scotland, the Crafts Council and Nottingham Castle.

In Bisila Noha's work, her attention to materials as a repository of stories, experiences and relationships meets Tacchini's vision, which has always been rooted in research, design culture and the ability of objects to transcend time.

"With Tacchini, I share a deep respect for the essence, beauty and voice of materials. I create works that, while rooted in the stories and traditions from which they originate, are innovative and deeply personal. They are forms that I use as a language to tell stories in which we can all recognize ourselves. Through my practice, I seek to highlight the power of art and craft to create connections and bring people closer together; for this reason, it is particularly inspiring to collaborate with a brand that fully understands and shares this vision."

Bisila Noha

Fondazione Officine Saffi
founded in 2011 by Laura Borghi, is a leading non-profit foundation investigating contemporary international ceramics takes an unparalleled, 360 degree-approach to ceramics. Promoting new research and experimentation in ceramics, while exploring the past, the foundation widens and expands the dialogue between art, craft, and design. Through a dynamic, cross-disciplinary program of exhibitions, educational activities, and publications, it actively promotes a lively conversation about ceramics that encapsulates a diverse audience. All activity at the foundation is driven by the belief that ceramics is a carrier of artistic, cultural, and social transformation. Fostering an open and participatory setting, Fondazione Officine Saffi encourages both artists and audiences to interrogate what it means to live in our world today, to relate to the Other and nonhuman life, and create social and cultural value through involvement in a multidisciplinary program that underscores a unique consortium of interpretations and builds momentum around ceramics in the twenty-first century. The foundation supports artists, designers, and makers through the different stages of production, promotion, and recognition of their work while being a platform for emerging creatives, as well as projects and narratives flourishing outside the established market systems. The foundation's commitment to exploring Italian culture accompanies its intercultural identity and desire to create a broader dialogue that resonates on a global scale together with a hybrid network of international talents, institutions, and organizations.

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Officine Saffi Award
Officine Saffi Award is an international prize dedicated to contemporary ceramics, created to support artistic research and promote the role of ceramics across contemporary art, fine craft and collectible design. For its sixth edition, entitled "Forms of Belonging", the Award brings together 28 finalists. Their works will be assessed by an international jury and presented in the finalists' exhibition at Fondazione Officine Saffi in Milan from 30 September to 13 November 2026. In dialogue with the theme of the open call, the selected works explore the human need for belonging, showing how — within an increasingly hostile social and political climate — the material world can become a space of recognition, foster a sense of proximity and contribute to our feeling of being part of a shared human community. Bringing together contemporary artistic research, fine craft practices and collectible design, the selection explores the shifting boundaries between these fields. A jury composed of Laura Borghi, Valentina Ciuffi, Massimo De Carlo, Jennifer Lee, François Mellé, Marco Sammicheli, Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo and Asad Syrkett will select the winner of the first prize.Additional special and residency awards will be presented on the same occasion by the partners Albuquerque Foundation, Bruckner Foundation, Guldagergaard, Fondazione Museo della Ceramica di Savona, Taoxichuan Art Center and Ottostumm | Mogs. Officine Saffi Award is promoted with the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Milan.

Tacchini Italia
Tacchini has been creating timeless furniture and furnishing accessories since 1967. Founded by Antonio Tacchini in Seveso, in the Brianza area, the company started out as a carpentry workshop before evolving into an international brand that has become a benchmark for Made in Italy. In the early 2000s, Giusi Tacchini joined the company where today she serves as CEO and Creative Director of the brand. During this period collaborations with internationally renowned designers began even as the solid values underpinning the company's origins remained: craftsmanship, continuous innovation, uncompromising quality, meticulous attention to the materials used as well as a respect for people and the environment. In 2010, the company relaunched its Babela chair, first designed in 1958 by Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni. This marked the beginning of a series of product reissues through which Tacchini brought new life to iconic pieces from the past. Like an archaeologist, Giusi Tacchini carefully mines the history of design and uncovers the fascinating stories behind the objects that then become the driving force of every project. Reissues and new products together form a catalogue distinguished by a refined synthesis of respect for tradition and openness to innovation. The company has always valued the resources of its region and the collective know-how of the Brianza district, where ideas are transformed into products of understated elegance that find synergy with the spaces they inhabit. With their unique stories, they become part of someone else's story.

Premio Tacchini – Bisila Noha
Casa Tacchini, Largo Treves 5, Milano
Invitation-only opening: 30 September
Opening to the public: 1 October – 13 November 2026
Opening hours
Monday – Friday:: 10:00/13:00 – 14:00/19:00
Press Office
press@p-s.it

Officine Saffi Award 6 – Forms of Belonging
Fondazione Officine Saffi, Via G.B. Niccolini 35a, Milano
30 September – 13 November 2026
Press preview
29 September, 2026, 10:30 – 15:00

Opening and award ceremony
29 September, 2026, 18:30 – 21:00 (by invitation only)

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