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# baltic

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### ODESSA

**ODESSA'S**  
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IN LONDON

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IN BARCELONA

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# Rome

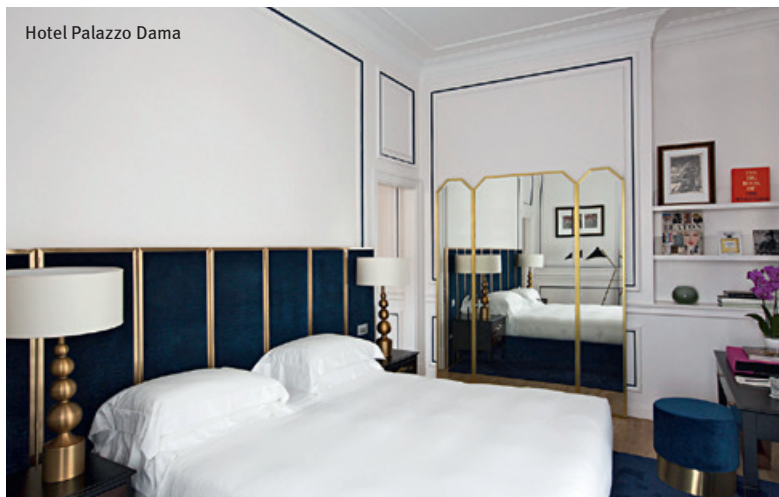
Anish Kapoor, *Mirror (Black to Red)*, 2016



Seven of hearts, by Orfeo Tamburi



Six of hearts, by Jean Fautrier



Hotel Palazzo Dama

Text by **UNA MEISTERE**,  
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Publicity photos



“Artists don’t make objects; artists make mythologies,” Mumbai-born and London based Anish Kapoor (b. 1954) once said. Known as one of the most illustrious sculptors of his generation, Kapoor creates simple and gigantic works in which mythology coexists with a barely perceptible sense of contemporariness. His fascinating and disquieting sculptures remind one of puzzles that are saturated with multi-layered symbolism. The works compel viewers to lose themselves in a labyrinth of feelings, while breaking down and manipulating preconceptions about space and about one’s own being. Therefore, don’t be surprised if you feel mildly disoriented after viewing the comprehensive **retrospective of Kapoor’s career** at the MACRO museum of contemporary art in Rome (Via Nizza, 138; museomacro.it; until April 17). Thirty iconic works are on display, including *Internal Objects in Three Parts* (2013-15) – a reflection on Rembrandt’s (1606-1669) late works that was first shown at Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum last year.

A colourful excursion into the labyrinths of human passions can also be taken at the Museo di Roma, which is exhibiting the **playing card collection** of legendary Italian intellectual Paola Masino (1908-1989). Born into a Roman aristocratic family, Masino grew up surrounded by the music of Beethoven, Mozart and Wagner. Along with various social and literary activities, Masino indulged in daily card games like poker, pinochle and scopone. Eventually, she asked some of her artist friends (including Carla Accardi, Jean Fautrier, Jean Cocteau, Carlo Levi and Fausto Pirandello) to paint the backs of playing card decks. Over the years, she amassed a considerable collection of painted playing cards, which her family later bequeathed to the museum. The collection is now being shown to the public for the first time (Museo di Roma, Piazza di San Pantaleo, 10; museodiroma.it; until April 30), along with portraits of Masino.

The image projected by Italian ladies of society like Masino has inspired the décor of one of Rome’s newest boutique hotels, the **Palazzo Dama** (Lungotevere Arnaldo da Brescia, 2; palazzodama.com; room prices from 200 euros per night). The 30-room hotel is located in an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century villa on the edge of the Tiber River. Italian architect and hotel owner Antonio Girardi redesigned the premises, which are an ode to elegance at its finest. The interior is decorated with historical mosaics, ornate chandeliers, Persian carpets, a Loro Piana tapestry and much more, while olive and lemon trees provide shade in the courtyard, where guests can make use of an outdoor swimming pool – a rarity at hotels in Rome.