

CURATORIAL TEXT

Alessandro Moreschini

*Ornament Is No Longer a Crime**Museo Civico Medievale, Bologna · 17 January — 22 March 2026*

“Ornament is no longer a crime.” Renato Barilli’s statement, made in 2020 in relation to Alessandro Moreschini’s work, became the starting point and title of a project built around a question: what place can ornament occupy today?

In Moreschini’s work, ornament is not something added to an object. It is a way of transforming it. His meticulous, vegetal and hyper-decorative patterns move across surfaces and everyday objects, removing them from their habitual function and giving them an unexpected presence. Ornament becomes thought, time and attention: a slow practice that resists the speed of contemporary visual consumption.

The Museo Civico Medievale in Bologna seemed to me the ideal place in which to bring this research. Its collections are permeated by gold, miniatures, devotional objects, symbols and surfaces in which decoration is never merely accessory: it speaks of the sacred, power, identity and memory. Moreschini’s works enter this universe without attempting to compete with it. They make their way among the historical objects, creating relationships through colour, light, rhythm and material.

I conceived the installation as an act of listening. I did not want the contemporary to impose itself on the museum, nor to camouflage itself within it. I wanted it to resonate. The works were therefore placed as presences capable of activating subtle connections between different periods, allowing visitors to discover them gradually.

In this encounter, ornament becomes a bridge between past and present and, at the same time, a form of care: care for objects, for the time required to make them, for the place that receives them and for the gaze of those who observe them. The exhibition thus invites us to slow down and look again. It does not add another layer to the museum; rather, it seeks to reveal something that was already there, hidden in its surfaces, its details and its memories.