



TODI (PG) | SALA DELLE PIETRE

AUGUST 31 – OCTOBER 5

HOLDING OUR CENTER
THE SOLO EXHIBITION OF
IAN DAVENPORT

The artist will present a series of his famous painting-installations in the Sala delle Pietre, blending two-dimensionality and sculpture (*Painting with floors*), alongside works on paper (*Splats*).

Once again this year, the collaboration between the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation, the Municipality of Todi, and the Todi Festival is confirmed, with the poster being designed by Ian Davenport.

Todi (PG) reaffirms its role as a promoter of contemporary art. The collaboration between the Municipality of Todi, the Todi Festival, and the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation has already brought internationally renowned artists to the city, such as Arnaldo Pomodoro, Fabrizio Plessi, and Mark di Suvero.

For 2025, Todi will welcome Ian Davenport (Sidcup, UK, 1966), one of the most prominent British artists, formerly part of the *Young British Artists* group, **who designed the poster for the 39th edition of the Todi Festival**, led again this year by Silvano Spada, its historic founder and director. Ian Davenport, returning to public spaces in Italy after his 2022 exhibition at the Chiostro del Bramante in Rome, has prepared a series of highly anticipated initiatives for Todi.

The first is his solo exhibition, titled *Holding Our Centre*, curated by Marco Tonelli, scientific curator of the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation, scheduled from August 31 to October 5, 2025, at the Sala delle Pietre. Here, he will present some of his famous painting-installations, blending two-dimensionality and sculpture (*Painting with floors*), alongside works on paper (*Splats*), characterized by dripping splashes of color. **Additionally, one of his video installations will animate the Palazzo del Capitano in Piazza del Popolo during the Todi Festival (August 30 – September 7, 2025), the main venue of the event.**

One of his video installations will also animate the Palazzo del Capitano in Piazza del Popolo — the main stage of the Todi Festival — during the event (August 30 – September 7, 2025). The work is a projection that revisits and adapts, for the space of Todi, a similar initiative originally created for the Flannels Store on Oxford Street in London in 2019. The installation translates the typical vertical bands of Davenport's paintings into electronic color schemes, establishing a dynamic and interactive relationship with the audience — a form of collective sensory engagement reminiscent of the great fresco cycles of the past.

"I am delighted, says Ian Davenport, to be asked by the Beverly Pepper Foundation and the city of Todi to exhibit my work for the extraordinary Museo Civico e Pinacoteca di Todi. For me, Italy has always been the home of artistic brilliance and Italian Renaissance painters have been hugely influential on my work. The inspiration for the colours in my paintings is often taken from the likes of Fra Angelico, Lorenzo Monaco and Sandro Botticelli. My paintings examine the physical materiality of painting where they sometimes evolve further than their binary medium into a sculptural form making a dynamic intervention in the exhibition space."

"Ian Davenport", declares Antonino Ruggiano, Mayor of Todi, "gifts the Todi estival 2025 with a poster full of light and color, iconically anticipating the essence of a special edition in which the city reunites with Silvano Spada as artistic director and strengthens its collaboration with the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation. The name of another internationally renowned artist adds to the extraordinary collection of prestigious artists, major exhibitions, and contemporary artworks that have brought life to Todi over the past fifty years"

"I thank the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation", states Silvano Spada, Artistic Director of the Todi Festival, "for its tribute to the Festival with the creation of the poster designed by the British artist Ian Davenport: an act that allows me to continue my focus on contemporary art, with among others, the names of Alighiero Boetti, Kounellis, and Pistoletto, who created famous posters for some of my Festivals. But, most of all, it gives me a sense of warmth to remember that, back in 1987, Beverly Pepper was my first fan and my social/cultural reference for both private and representative meetings in the social life of Todi back then, which, at that time, was unknown to me."

"We are proud", emphasizes Elisa Veschini, President of the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation, "to reaffirm our prestigious partnership with the Todi Festival, an alliance that continues to grow with enthusiasm and passion. It is an honor for us to work alongside a Festival that, under the new direction of Silvano Spada, is enriched with new energy and visions. His inspiring leadership motivates us to continue on an enlightened path that, for years, has brought some of the greatest names in contemporary art to Todi, making this city an international reference point for culture. We thank master Ian Davenport for accepting our invitation; his work will once again contribute to this extraordinary project that celebrates art in all its forms."

"Ian Davenport", recalls Marco Tonelli, Curator of the project and Scientific Curator of the Beverly Pepper Projects Foundation, "is one of the most important British abstract painters active since the late '80s, internationally recognized, whose works manage to seduce, almost magically, and engage the gaze of both specialists and laypeople, thanks to their dynamic colors and the processes of painting always in view, as if the viewer were part of the creation of the artwork and the artwork itself something alive and still in progress. It is an engaging, almost participatory art, where the passage of time and the immediacy of the experience seem to constitute the substance of painting, maintaining a balance between appearance and structure."

Ian Davenport. Biographical Notes

Born in Kent, England, in 1966, Ian Davenport graduated from Goldsmiths College of Art in London in 1988. That same year, as part of the Young British Artists generation, he participated in the famous "Freeze" exhibition. Just two years after his graduation, he held his first solo show at Waddington Galleries in London. In 1991, he was nominated for the prestigious Turner Prize, for which he still holds the record as the youngest artist ever nominated. Ian Davenport is known for his abstract paintings that explore process and materiality. Recently, his work has focused on carefully poured acrylic paint lines on an inclined surface, causing the paint to spill into the observer's space, where the drips accumulate in complex arrangements of lines and colors. Over the past ten years, he has also turned his attention to screen printing and engraving, creating an extensive collection of graphic works. Davenport has exhibited widely worldwide, participating in major institutional exhibitions, such as those at Dundee Contemporary Arts in 1999, Ikon Gallery in Birmingham in 2004, Tate Liverpool in 2000, and Dallas Contemporary in Texas in 2018. He has completed significant commissions, including *Poured Lines Southwark Street* in London in 2006, a 48-meter-wide painting on a bridge, which is one of the largest permanent public artworks in the UK. At the 2017 Venice Biennale, Ian Davenport presented an installation of over 1,000 stripes, a commission by Swatch, alongside a special Swatch Art watch. In 2016, he hand-painted a series of porcelain plates in collaboration with Meissen, commissioned by the South London Gallery, and designed a special edition bag for Christian Dior's Lady Art project. In 2010, he completed a residency program at the Josef and Annie Albers Foundation in Connecticut, USA. His works are included in major museum collections, including the Arts Council of Great Britain, Tate London, Centre Pompidou in Paris, National Museum Wales in Cardiff, Von der Heydt Museum in Wuppertal, Museum of Modern Art in La Spezia, Borusan Art Gallery in Istanbul, Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Dallas Museum of Art, Texas. The first monograph of his work was published by Thames Hudson in 2014. Ian Davenport is represented in Italy by the Luca Tommasi Gallery in Milan.

Todi, April 2025

IAN DAVENPORT. HOLDING OUR CENTRE

Todi, Sala delle Pietre – Palazzo del Popolo
August 31 – October 5, 2025

Free Entry

For more information about the Todi Festival:

www.todifestival.it

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