



A photograph shows Easter chocolate eggs painted to pay a tribute to American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (left), Spanish painter Antoni Tapies (center) and Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, made by pastry chef Walter Musco.



Pastry chef Walter Musco poses for pictures with Easter chocolate eggs sculpted to pay tribute to different artists, in his pastry shop "Pasticceria Bompiani", in Rome.

## How do you like your eggs? Rome chef's elegant answer for Easter

In a working-class neighborhood of Rome, crowds gather in front of a pastry shop window to see sumptuous Easter eggs turned into works of art. Laid out like brightly coloured pieces of jewelry, each of Walter Musco's chocolate eggs is created as a tribute to a particular artist. One is adorned with two people holding up a heart, after US pop artist Keith Haring, while another is crafted all in yellow with slashes reminiscent of Argentine-Italian painter Lucio Fontana.

"It's a simple idea—I'm really passionate about art and I expanded my field to include literature, music and cinema," Musco told AFP. The 47-year-old Roman, wearing an impeccable white chef's uniform, has been making these

kind of eggs for a decade and has now put a selection on show ahead of the Easter weekend. The eggs on display are the "ones that have pleased me the most", and include one decked with a dove like the bird in Robert Mapplethorpe's famous photo of Patti Smith, and a red dressed egg inspired by fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa.

Each of these eggs will set you back between 150 and 400 euros, depending on how long they take to make. But you don't have to eat them, and if looked after, they can last for years. "The main thing is to keep them out of the heat, so not next to a chimney or a radiator, or near a window exposed to the sun. There's no problem up to about 26 or 27 degrees celsius," Musco said.



Photo shows an Easter chocolate egg painted like the "Tagli" painting by Argentine-Italian artist Lucio Fontana in order to pay him a tribute. — AFP photos