

Lettere intorno a un giardino

curated by Marta Ferrara and Mario Francesco Simeone

June 28th – September 7th, 2024

Alfonso Artiaco is pleased to announce the opening of the group show,
Lettere intorno a un giardino (Letters around a Garden).
Opening on Thursday, June 27th 2024 at 7pm.

Presented artists

Maria Giovanna Abbate, Gianmarco Biele, Paolo Bini, Selene Cardia, collettivo damp, Carmela De Falco, Nina Jonsson Qi, Nicola Vincenzo Piscopo, Paolo Puddu, Andreas Zampella

A garden hidden among the stones of Palazzo De Sangro in Vietri, similar to many others that open up in the metropolitan landscape. To discover these secluded hiccups of eden in the depths of ancient aristocratic dwellings and in the irregular widenings of the urban stratigraphy of Naples, an often unexpected but almost never fortuitous indication is needed. A whispered intuition or premonition among wooden gates, shady courtyards, wrought-iron balconies and wide piperno balconies. It is from this suggestion, enshrined in the history of Neapolitan involuntary architecture, that the exhibition *Lettere intorno a un Giardino* (Letters Around a Garden) takes its cue, its title freely inspired by an epistolary collection composed by the Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke between 1924 and 1926, whose common thread is the care of a garden.

The exhibition itinerary is punctuated by works mainly unpublished and created especially for the occasion, with heterogeneous techniques and languages including painting, sculpture, installation, video and photography. The artists involved were born between the mid-1980s and mid-1990s and trained in Naples and Campania. Their research has developed mainly in and around the city, and then continued, in some cases, elsewhere, while maintaining close ties with their places of origin and the relationships that run through them. Their works and projects extend their roots into the depths of this territory, and then sprout and effuse, so as to mark a continuity in the passage of the seasons, contributing, more or less silently, with multiform and polyphonic approaches, to consolidate the experience of the city, to enliven its narrative.

From the critical text: "*Concealed in the shadows of cloisters, in gardens framed by the high, ancient walls of palaces, among the steep tuff walls of neighbourhoods, the trees can reach up to the third floor and then even higher, touching the gratings of balconies, leaning against the jambs of windows. These trunks are abundant with leaves that become covered with tinkling gold coins when there is just a little sunshine or let the rain slide off, creating small waterfalls on the ground and between the fractures in the dusty pavement of the involuntary city. In the ganglions of wild and disproportionately developed urban layering, live plants in some cases centuries old, inhabited by tiny rustlings. Short or prolonged whistles, modulated by the sparrows and magpies that occasionally venture onto the balconies of houses, coming from who knows where and bearers of indecipherable messages. A garden, here, is a green that adds up, disappears and then multiplies, not conceded except upon request. Space of*

overlooking, of bargaining, emptiness in waiting. Harmonious frictions between nature and artifice, other stories gather around these gardens. Secluded but flourishing narratives of an immediately lateral proximity, rooted to the depths of the soil, to the point of constituting - and replacing - its foundations. [...]"

Maria Giovanna Abbate, 1991, Caserta, lives and works between Naples and Florence

Founder of the center for contemporary arts Opificio Puca (Caserta) and of the Cultural Center for Research on the Useless (Florence), Maria Giovanna Abbate expresses herself through a polyphonic research, straddling a collective and subjective dimension of art making, the result of an itinerant and at the same time permanent training, made of fortuitous or deliberately sought encounters, articulating a practice linked to the idea of art as experience. Since 2021 she has dedicated herself as curator and artist to the project Oh,Ah, Si! on the river off course, an experimental platform of participatory art along the banks of the Volturno River. She has participated in group exhibitions in Italy and abroad: I nostri fiumi condividere una bocca, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin, 2024), Kême, i materiali del tempio in mostra (Pozzuoli, 2023), Help Art and Science, Expo della Scienza (Wuhu, China, 2023), Letizia Battaglia. Stories from the street, Mole Vanvitelliana (Ancona, 2020).

Gianmarco Biele, 1992, Benevento, vive e lavora a Napoli

La ricerca di Gianmarco Biele è orientata alla sperimentazione di diversi media, dalla pittura al video e alla fotografia, fino alla progettazione di opere ambientali. Ricorrente è il tema del rapporto tra naturale e artificiale, di cui evidenzia sia gli elementi di contraddizione che di continuità. Recentemente ha approfondito lo studio dei materiali partecipando a progetti di restauro conservativo. Alla sua personale ricerca, affianca l'attività di consulenza, coordinamento e supporto ad artisti, per progetti di respiro internazionale. Ha partecipato a mostre collettive in Italia e all'estero, quali N.1 Basket interference (Vilnius, VDA, 2020) e Verso (Napoli, Palazzo Caracciolo, 2015).

Paolo Bini, 1984, Battipaglia, lives and works in Santa Tecla (Salerno).

Ranging from painting to installation, Paolo Bini's work focuses on reinterpreting the theme of landscape. Appropriating digitally derived schemes, the painting ideally takes on the structure of computer language, which Bini uses to fragment and defragment the landscape, questioning its modes of representation. His works have been exhibited in Italy and abroad, at galleries and institutional spaces, including Galleria Peola Simondi Turin (2021), Made in Cloister Foundation Naples (2021), CaMusAc Cassino (2020), ISCP New York (2019). He was the winner of the 2016 Cairo Prize and took part in the Everard Read at Leeu Estates Artist Residency program in South Africa. He is currently in the process of creating his own environmental installation for the Magma diffuse museum in Sicily. She is a lecturer in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Macerata.

Selene Cardia, 1995, Cagliari, lives and works between Naples and Cagliari

Adopting the medium of painting as a performative and meditative act, Selene Cardia expresses through the pictorial surface an introspective vision of the natural and anthropic landscape. Originally from a small town in the Sardinian hinterland, Cardia left her homeland at a young age to develop her research between Berlin, Florence and Naples, where she specialized in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts. Here she delved into the relationship between gaze, light, photography and painting, entering inside the insular and metropolitan conditions characteristic of her two places of life and work.

Carmela De Falco, 1994, Naples, lives and works in Naples.

Carmela De Falco trained between the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, ENSA-Dijon, Adbk München and ENSAD-Paris. Her research subverts and alters codified cultural orders through an investigation of language and the physical and mental spaces inhabited and traversed by individuals and collectivities. Recent solo exhibitions include: How Far My Body Can Go, Shop (2023); Inhabiting Time, Latte project (Faenza, 2022); Containing Time, Exit Strategy (2022). Recent group exhibitions include: GOAL,

Fondazione Morra Greco (2023); The Power of Thought, Residenza delle Arti (Bern, 2023); There is no time to enjoy the Sun, Fondazione Morra Greco (Naples, 2021); Fleeting, Akademie der Bildenden Künste München (2018). Between 2023 and 2024, she participated in residency periods at Hangar-Lisbon and Fondation Fiminco-Paris, and is the winner of the SIAE-Nuove Opere call for works for the solo exhibition Memomirabilia, Museo Filangieri (scheduled for June 2024).

Collettivo damp

Collettivo damp was born as an unintentional project in 2017 from the meeting of Alessandro Armento (1990), Luisa de Donato (1991), Viviana Marchiò (1990), Adriano Ponte (1989). Its research revolves around an interest in the temporary nature of things - from life forms to ideas - in dialogue with the specificities of places, often working in art residency contexts: Raccolta Lercaro, Bologna, 2020; Pavlióen aan het Water, Rotterdam, 2020; Fabra i Coats - Fabrica de Creació de Barcelona, 2022; Casa degli Artisti, Milan, 2023. In 2023 the collective initiated Negozio, a project space devoted to the useless within the market area of Portici, Naples.

Nina Jonsson Qi, 1993, Stockholm, lives and works between Naples and Stockholm

The traces that the rhythm of time etches on natural and man-made landscapes, the capacity of memory to rework errors and aphasias, the whispering process through which matter is continually transformed into something else, maintaining a memory of what has been. Between photography, video, drawings, sound, manipulations of archival materials and interactions with Artificial Intelligence, Nina Jonsson Qi's artistic research moves between representation and abstraction, exploring the surface and depths of the image to return the suggestion of an inner, sometimes dreamlike reality. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, she spent time studying at the Institut Supérieur des Beaux Arts in Besançon, France. Her works have been exhibited in various spaces, including the Institut Supérieur des Beaux Arts in Besançon, the Liberated Garden and Santa Fede Liberata, in Naples, Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design, and Nobel Week Lights, in Stockholm. In 2016, he received the Goyescas Prize at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples and the XXVII Edition Gaetano Porticato Prize.

Paolo Puddu, 1986, Naples, lives and works between Naples and Paris

Paolo Puddu's research analyzes processes and behaviors between man and landscape. In dialogue with the specificity of places, his works aim to investigate their political and social aspects, placing themselves within an aesthetic aimed at suggesting new spatial and conceptual systems. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions, residencies and projects, including the most recent said between the lines (Museo Madre, Naples, 2023/24) and mind the gap_ (Italian Cultural Institute Amsterdam, 2023). He has won awards such as Cantica21, an initiative promoted by MAECI (DGSP) and MiBACT (DGCC), 2020; Un'opera per il Castello, 5th edition, Castel Sant'Elmo, Naples. His works are in public and private collections, both in Italy and abroad.

Nicola Vincenzo Piscopo, 1990, Naples, lives and works in Naples

Nicola Vincenzo Piscopo's investigation focuses on the painter's responsibility as a philosopher of the image in the age of visual overproductions. He worked from 2016 to 2018 with the curatorial and artistic collective &nd project. In 2021 he founded the Quartiere Latino project, a condominium-museum of contemporary art at km 0 in Naples, with the aim of creating a mapping of artists who live and work in the intersection of the neighborhoods around the condominium. Exhibition experiences include Krampfanfalle, (University of Georgia, Tbilisi, 2013), Collirio (Galleria Marrocco, Naples, 2021), GOAL! (Fondazione Morra Greco, Naples, 2023), Under Raffaello (Premio Marche, Urbino, 2023).

Andreas Zampella, 1989, Salerno, lives and works in Milan, Italy.

The elements of Andreas Zampella's work are composed as in a play: the painting is the setting for actions and non-actions, a metaphor for the viewer; the tools and sculptures are the props. All things live a condition of continuous action, as abscesses of performance art. His work investigates the relationship between reality and representation in society, admitting the failure of communication in contemporary

times. Originally from Salerno and educated in Naples with studies in Decoration at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, Andreas Zampella has participated in various residencies in Italy, including BoCS Art in Cosenza and Dolomiti Contemporanee. He has exhibited his works at Palazzo Braschi for the Quadriennale in Rome (2023) and at Nashira Gallery in Milan (2023), among other venues.