

AT WORK!

Work, Society, Community in contemporary art

From an idea by Ilaria Bignotti

Curated by Ilaria Bignotti and ACME Art Lab (Alessia Belotti, Melania Raimondi and Camilla Remondina)

**With the essential support of
Piero Atchugarry Gallery, Miami
Marignana Arte, Venice**

An exhibition in two locations:

Brescia, MO.CA – centre for new cultures, ground floor exhibition rooms, from November 13th 2021 to January 6th 2022

Venice, Spazio Berlendis, from November 27th 2021 to March 12th 2022

MO.CA - centre for new cultures, ground floor exhibition rooms, Palazzo Martinengo Colleoni, via Moretto 78, Brescia

Opening: November 13th 2021, 11:00am

As follows:

11:30am, ground floor exhibition rooms: dance performance by the students of the On-Stage Dance School of Brescia, directed by Martina Guarnati and Barbara Tanda, which will interact with the works on display through movement and corporeal experimentation

3:00pm, Dance Hall: presentation of the new book by Vladimir Safatle, *The Circuit of Affects: Political Bodies, Abandon and the End of the Individual*. Translation and curation by Jonathan Molinari, preface by Vittorio Morfino, Aracne 2021

Spazio Berlendis, Calle Berlendis 6301, Venice

Press conference: November 25th 2021, 11:30 am

Preview (by invitation): November 26th 2021

Opening: November 27th 2021, 3:00pm-7:00pm

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Artists in Brescia: Pablo Atchugarry (Montevideo, Uruguay, 1954), Serena Fineschi (Siena, 1973), Silvia Infranco (Belluno, 1982), Giulio Malinverni (Vercelli, 1994), Lorenzo Passi (Milano, 1985), Maurizio Pellegrin (Venice, 1956), Túlio Pinto (Brasilia, 1974), Pablo Rasgado (Zapopan, 1984), Arcangelo Sassolino (Vicenza, 1967), Yūken Teruya (Okinawa, 1973), Verónica Vázquez (Treinta y Tres, 1970)

Artists in Venice: Serena Fineschi (Siena, 1973), Silvia Infranco (Belluno, 1982), Marco Maggi (Montevideo, Uruguay, 1957), Giulio Malinverni (Vercelli, 1994), Albano Morandi (Salò, 1958), Lorenzo Passi (Milan, 1985), Maurizio Pellegrin (Venice, 1956), Túlio Pinto (Brasilia, 1974), Quayola (Rome, 1982), Dagoberto Rodriguez (Caibarién, Las Villas, Cuba, 1969), Arcangelo Sassolino (Vicenza, 1967), Yūken Teruya (Okinawa, 1973), Verónica Vázquez (Treinta y Tres, 1970)

Access to the exhibition is permitted only for masked visitors with a valid Green Pass.

Promoted by the Presidency of the City Council and by the Department of Culture of the Municipality of Brescia, this collective exhibition presents internationally acclaimed artists who have never before been shown in the city of Brescia. Many large-scale works and site-specific installations will interact with the exhibition spaces in a rare way with great visual impact, igniting cross-contaminations and relationships between the ancient and the contemporary, classical languages and industrial and reused materials.

The exhibition was made possible thanks to the loans and support by the galleries that represent the artists, Marignana Arte, Venice and Piero Atchugarry Gallery, Miami. It dialogues with the foundational values of the 2021 Festival of Peace, including the political or rather community values of the works, principles of dialogue and collaboration, resilience and the sharing of fundamental human rights. This involves fifteen artists (eleven shown in Brescia) from diverse generations and cultural backgrounds, many of whom come from Central or South American countries, selected for their attention to the themes of work and materials, transformation and change: topics of urgent relevance that play out in works of great involvement.

One of these artists is Pablo Atchugarry, considered a true and proper master in Latin America, not only because of the value of his extraordinary aniconic research, but also because he is a teacher and founder of movements of artistic research and a supporter of many young artists. (Palazzo Reale in Milan has dedicated a large anthology to him, open from October 27th 2021). Also exhibited is the young artist Giulio Malinverni, who comes from a family of conservators and is an extremely capable painter who, with ancient techniques, works with traditional materials, rethinking the artist's work from the concept of the workshop to the manual preparation of materials. Verónica Vázquez is a political artist who, with her ferrous frames and loads of matter, recalls the feminine work of her homeland, reenacting both social struggles and the

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dynamics between society and work. Arcangelo Sassolino is an extraordinary inventory of energies that counterbalance each other in artworks that are acrobatics of force, metaphors for the world. The exhibit, right from its hard and imperious title: *AT WORK!*, is an appeal to the artists not only for them to continue to intervene in society with works capable of unhinging common points of view and bringing to light the most pressing problems and prophecies, but also to ask the greater community to continue to recognize and protect the work of artists, as a fundamental tool of analysis and vision of a future-oriented present, in all of its social, cultural, human, and political implications, in the broadest and deepest sense of the term.

Two weeks after its Brescian stage, the exhibition will also open in Venice at Marignana Arte's Spazio Berlendis, which will also host an installation by the artist Albano Morandi (Salò, 1958).

The choice to show artists coming from Latin America, for the first time in Brescia, on one hand, lines up in a timely manner with the programming of the Festival of Peace while highlighting, on the other hand, the current responses given by artists coming from countries that were gravely impacted by the pandemic.

The concept of work, at the centre of the artworks of the fifteen invited artists, can thus be read as an act of identifying and empowering both the individual and the collective, an engine of aggregation and community exchange, as a medium of growth for both social improvement and the economy of the community. Work is also analyzed in its negative aspects, as a tool for discrimination and neocolonialism.

United by the choice of materials that are primarily industrial and linked to productive contexts, the participating artists express themselves through a creative process that entrusts the visual result of the work to their interaction with the space, highlighting the relevance of manual labour and the handling of the materials. Their works and installations, from Pinto's architectural alchemies to Rasgado's open textures, from Pellegrin's memorial relocations to Teruya's ultralight visions, are stimulating questions about the phenomenon of work. This includes the consideration of ecological problems and respect for the environment in the face of the excess production of goods and wasted materials, a reflection on each country's cultural identity, which defines its own history and culture according to the production of goods and products, and the analysis of the conflicting phenomena of globalization and *genius loci*, in their constant juxtaposition..

Belonging to diverse generations, the selected artists demonstrate that art, even today, is not only an aesthetic choice, but also an ethical act and demonstration of social commitment, a choice made with care and attention toward economic, cultural, industrial and technological histories.

Due to the impossibility of remaking the world, they claim the need to act in it: their task, recalling the thoughts of Albert Camus at the end of the 1950s, was to prevent the destruction of the world and to reconcile work and culture.

In that sense, the message that the artists transmit with their works is intended as a reflection on the value of the radical involvement of the artist-person in the present moment, a declaration of the urgency of the direct, physical and living experiences of things and facts. For these reasons, the project is in line with the mission

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of MO.CA- centre for new cultures, aimed at investigating the complexities of languages in the contemporary period, in a free cross-pollination between geography and technology, environment and industry, nature and culture, with a particular focus on the active generations of contemporary artists and performers.

This exhibition is open to the public of all cultures and countries, the value of sharing and exchange between communities, attention to the social environments of various international realities, and all of its potential for the common good.

Hours and information

MO.CA - centre for new cultures, Palazzo Martinengo Colleoni, via Moretto 78, Brescia

hours: Tuesday-Sunday from 3:00pm to 7:00pm (closed Monday)

info@morettocavour.com

www.morettocavour.com

Spazio Berlendis, Calle Berlendis 6301, Venezia

orari: aperto venerdì e sabato dalle 14.00 alle 19.00, lunedì - giovedì e domenica solo su appuntamento

hours: open Friday and Saturday from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. by appointment only Monday-Thursday and Sunday

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