



Piazza dell'Immaginario

curated by **Alba Braza**

organized by **Dryphoto arte contemporanea**

Opening: 11 November 2016, 16:30 at Mercato Luigi, Prato, via Pistoiese 113

Artists: Andrea Abati, Flavia Bucci, Francesca Catastini, Lori Lako, Linda Motta

Locations: Via Pistoiese, Via Fabio Filzi, Piazza 5 marzo 2015, Via Umberto Giordano

Karaoke: 11 November 2016, 19:30

Bar Lo Scalino, via Pistoiese 166

In the context of **MacroLottoZero - SC17 / Dryphoto / Kinkaleri**, Progetto Regionale "TOSCANAINCONTEMPORANEA2016" with the contribution of the City of Prato. In collaboration with **Culturama, Valencia (Spain)**.

The event is part of the calendar **.con | contemporaneo condiviso**, network of non-profit spaces for the contemporary in Prato.

Piazza dell'Immaginario is a project launched in 2014 with the aim of improving the neighborhood where Dryphoto arte contemporanea has its headquarters, where a wide range of cultures, realities, socio-economic circles, interests and necessities are concentrated in a small area.

In 2016 the exhibition itinerary extends to occupy a new space, "documenting" installations and/or actions that have already taken place in the neighborhood, together with projects and actions that happen in one of the piazzas created in the previous editions, Piazza 5 Marzo 2015.

Giardino Melampo, Prato 2012/2013 by Andrea Abati, a work-garden made by the artist with the help of the neighborhood; a public garden offered to residents, a project that has made it possible to dream, continuing with the creation of *Piazza dell'Immaginario*. A garden that has changed the image of a decaying space that now becomes photographic imagery, closing a phase of the project that offers (without a time span) neighbors and citizens the possibility of remembering the zone through large-format images installed as banners.

This work joins those of Francis Alÿs, Olivo Barbieri, Bianco-Valente, Pantani-Surace and Bert Theis produced for the 2015 edition, and those of Andrea Abati, Gabriele Basilico, Bleda y Rosa and the group R.E.P. Revolutionary Experimental Space installed in 2014.

This year we have also invited four artists - Flavia Bucci, Francesca Catastini, Lori Lako, Linda Motta - to work on-site at Piazza 5 marzo 2015 with temporary projects that bring continuity to the curatorial discourse of the project.

Piazza 5 marzo 2015 was opened during the last edition of *Piazza dell'Immaginario*; it takes its name from the date of an extraordinary meteorological event in Prato. The design and production of the pavement and furnishings are by [chi-na].

The piazza will host *Colourful Dreams*, a work by Flavia Bucci (Chieti, 1990), formed by three hundred Crystal Balls of different colors, glued together, inflated with the help of the local residents who want to take part in the action. An aesthetic and recreational proposal that becomes an invitation to create a space of dialogue, a moment of intergenerational and intercultural gathering.

Avaki by Francesca Catastini (Lucca, 1982) references the idea of a garden through a single plant of the *Metrosideros* species, whose red flowers suggest the color that is so important and present in *Piazza dell'Immaginario*. The wellbeing of the plant will be ensured by the direct, active participation of local residents. *Metrosideros* is a species from New Zealand that is now naturalized in Italy; over time, we have forgotten where it came from, and we no longer wonder about its origin. The project prompts us to think about differences and micro-differences.

Instead of Cursing the Darkness by Lori Lako (Pogradec, Albania, 1991) is a point of light in the darkness over the entrance to the piazza from Via Pistoiese. In the neighborhood of intervention, the "macrolotto zero," there are still many poorly lit places, something that is usually associated with a perception of danger. Lako underlines this aspect by installing a domestic lamp that reveals the traces of life experience, of intimate memories that are now exposed in the outside world, away from safe, private space.

La misura dell'immaginario by Linda Motta (Prato, 1973) is a cord made with textile waste, cut into strips and then knotted, covering the distance between the places of *Piazza dell'Immaginario*. It will be closed in a box and kept at Piazza 5 marzo 2015. The cord is conserved as the measure of the link between the places of the imaginary, but no visible trace remains. In a performance, the artist will unroll the bundle of cord to place it in a red box, such as those used to store sand used to fight fires. Just as the linear meter is conserved in Paris at the Conservatoire des artes et métiers, *Piazza dell'Immaginario* will conserve the memory of its reach, the work of weaving relations and narratives, as rescue in times of crisis and prevention of future conflagrations.

The contamination between different disciplines and action outside the appointed spaces are among the characteristics of our time, so as in this case it can happen that a contemporary art project takes public space as its context of work, accompanied by interventions in terms of decoration and urban furnishings, intercepting citizens interested in implementing actions whose goal is to improve the context that surrounds them, producing advantages for the whole city.

Asking ourselves about the image we have of oriental culture, about how oriental see occidental culture, about the image we have of migration, how we think about other realities and how images confirm those realities in a given moment, are just some of the challenges with which we have come to grips since the beginning of this project.

Biographical notes on the artists 2016

Andrea Abati (Prato, 1952) has worked in the field of photography since the late 1970s. The starting point for his work is analysis of the transformations of the industrial architectural landscape, symbolic observation of man's impact on nature, a focus on human activities and changes in the social fabric of the city, through use of photography as a tool of knowledge and relation between the self and the world. His best known works include: *I Luoghi del Mutamento*, a series begun in 1988, undoubtedly the project of greatest complexity and also the most famous, reflecting urgent attention to the contemporary industrial landscape and changing social realities; *I Luoghi della Natura* (1997), a series of nocturnal, dreamy views where the sea becomes the place of reflection on contemporary identity; from 2012, the series *La Forza della Natura*. Since 2008 he has also worked in the field of video. He believes that abandoning the concept of the work and concentrating on triggering artistic practices in the public sphere can become a priority in certain moments; hence the construction of the *Giardino Melampo/Mandela Garden 1*, Prato, 2013. Since 2015 he has curated the project *Guardare al Paesaggio. Incontri tra visionari*, a series of experiential and multidisciplinary encounters whose central focus is landscape, its protection, conservation and representation. He has had many solo and group shows in Italy, France, Austria, Belgium, Germany, USA, Canada.

Flavia Bucci (Chieti, 1990) lives and works in Tuscany. After graduating from the Fine Arts Academy of Carrara, she is studying painting with Gianni Dessi and Fabio Sciortino. She sees her artistic activity as a continuous process of research and discovery, interpretation and comprehension of the world around her. She has shown work in group exhibitions on a national level, including: 2015, *Allievi* (Galleria Duomo, Carrara), *Città diffusa* (Ginestra Fabbrica della Conoscenza, Monteverdhi), ACME Festival (Sarzana), *Belle Arti in Procura* (Procura della Repubblica, Massa), *Le Piccole Fotografie da Collezione*; 2014, ACME Festival (Sarzana); 2013, *Contemporaneart* (Galleria Europa, Lido di Camaiore).

Francesca Catastini (Lucca, 1982) works above all with images, using different photographic materials. One of the main themes of her research is the perception and use of images as a form of knowledge and learning. At the moment she is particularly interested in the relationship between haptic and optic perception. She has shown work in Italy and abroad. Exhibitions include: *Feminine Masculine* (Photo 50, London Art Fair, London); *Taboo* (Galleria Poggiali&Forconi, Florence); *METODO* (StudioMDT, Prato); *ROMANZO PISTOIA* (Palazzo Fabroni, Pistoia); *IO VEDO IO GUARDO* (Careof DOCVA, Milan); Premio Fabbri per le arti contemporanee, Villa Brandolini, Pieve di Soligo; *TU35, Geografie dell'Arte Emergente in Toscana* (Officina Giovani, Prato); *Terranauti* (Centro Espositivo SMS, Pisa); *D Photobookshow* (The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki); *Good Breeding* (solo show, Mc2 Gallery, Milan); *DOMESTIC* (Photographic Social Vision, Espacio Cultural Caja Madrid, Barcelona).

Lori Lako (Pogradec, 1991) lives and works in Florence. In 2012 she graduated in Painting from the Fine Arts Academy of Florence, where she is now studying in the degree program in Painting and New Expressive Languages. Her artistic research is based on the attempt to counter the condition of postmodern man, flooded with images and messages that block the decoding of the world, historical memory and self-awareness. She has shown work in Italy and abroad. Solo shows include: 2013 *Lesfull* (Fondazione Lanfranco Baldi, Pelago) and 2012 *Ne rrugen e artit* (Galeria Lasgush Poradeci, Pogradec). Group shows include: 2016 *Downside-up* (Tirana Art Lab), *Avviso di garanzia* (Ex-tribunale, Pescara), *In-memori* (Officina Meccanica, Montevarchi), *Era pacifica pare* (Careof, Milan); 2015 *Art vs. Budget* (Galeria Lasgush Poradeci, Pogradec), *TU35 - Geografie dell'arte emergente in Toscana* (Officina Giovani, Prato), *Jahresausstellung* (Munich Fine Arts Academy), *Fünf Wochen Unendlicher Spass* (Pathos München, Munich); 2014 *Prato-Sarajevo Art Invasion* (Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Dryphoto arte contemporanea and Kinkaleri, Prato), *Right before I was* (F_AIR-Florence Artists in Residence, Florence), *Come sé* (Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno); 2013, *Un popolo senza memoria è un popolo senza futuro* (Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno), *Topography of citizenship* (SRISA Gallery, Florence).

Linda Motta (Prato, 1973) lives and works in Prato. After graduating in Contemporary German Literature at the University of Florence, she moved to the United Kingdom, and in 2012 she took a masters in Fine Art Photography at London College of Communication (University of the Arts London). Her artistic practice began as a method of self-healing. She works mostly with photography.

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