

MENTAL LANDSCAPES / NATURAL TRAJECTORIES

CURATED BY LORENZO BRUNI

Salvatore Arancio • Marinus Boezem • Domenico Mangano & Marieke van Rooy
Antoni Muntadas • Maurizio Nannucci • Paolo Parisi

/ SPECIAL PROJECTS

Stefania Galegati Shines
David Medalla
Gianni Melotti

15 JUNE / 30 SEPTEMBER

opening 14 June h. 18:00

Museo di Geologia "G. G. Gemmellaro" • Sistema Museale di Ateneo (SIMUA),
Corso Tukory 131, 90133 Palermo.

The exhibition "Mental Landscapes / Natural Trajectories," curated by Lorenzo Bruni, a collateral event of Manifesta 12 – the European Nomadic Biennial – and part of the official calendar of Palermo Capital of Culture 2018, will open on Thursday, June 14 at 6pm at the "G.G. Gemmellaro" Geological Museum in Palermo, in collaboration with SIMUA, the city's University Museum System.

The exhibition, curated by Lorenzo Bruni, reflects on the prerogatives that could today express the concept of the "ideal" landscape from both a nature and intercultural interaction perspective. The purpose of the project is to consider landscapes as territories to share in experiencing its discovery, as well as in the reinstatement of the concept of community. The artists invited to intervene in the Geological Museum, thus entering into a dialogue with the collection and its particular museum display, are **Maurizio Nannucci, Antoni Muntadas and Marinus Boezem**, internationally renowned artists that have been active since the 1960s and among the first to explore the dialogue between nature, culture and language, as well as three mid-career as **Salvatore Arancio, Domenico Mangano & Marieke van Rooy and Paolo Parisi**. These artists of Sicilian origin that long ago chose to live and work off the island analyse memory and their comeback in Sicilia to create site specific works. The journey and the dynamics of dialogue are adopted and evoked by the artists to create the various reflections connected to the theme of the discourse between the id, our surroundings, the sense of belonging and the manner of conveying know-how in the digital age. To underline the need for increasing awareness about both the physical and mental context within which the observer interacts with the global and intangible reality of information, three additional artists were invited – Stefania Galegati Shines, David Medalla and Gianni Melotti – to create specific projects tied to communicating the overall project and to suggest an innovative perspective of the role of the museum in this era of instant digital archives.

Landscape, as Georg Simmel wrote in 1909, is the space that is ostensibly separated before the observer, transforming it into an image, but also a coveted place to reach and discover. In today's day and age, with the aid of tools like Google Maps and Google Earth, this imploration to discover places unknown and distant is much less common. From this perspective, there becomes a need to offer a deep reflection on the possibility for the observer to discover landscapes through its tools and motives, rather than its physical characteristics. The "G.G. Gemellaro" Geological Museum, chosen by the curator as the ideal setting for the project because of its collection of rarities and ancient testaments of history, as well as

its nature as an atypical place for a contemporary art exhibition, becomes a place of privileged observation in which the visitor can experiment with the theme of knowing how to see, discover and recognize the traces and signs of a natural and artificial landscape – and not only – to frequent and construct.

The nine artists, ranging various generations and nationalities, weave a route of reflection – through their epiphanic yet discreet presence – on the themes of art, that is, its role and mediums, as well as the awareness of man and the territory within which he operates. In line with the themes of the 12th edition of Manifesta, “Mental Landscapes / Natural Trajectories” “inserts” photographs, videos, objects, installations and paintings in the rooms at the Geological Museum that are able to establish not only a visual short circuit with the artefacts, prehistoric skeletons, minerals and fossils in the museum’s collection, but also, and especially, an increase in the visitor’s attention, forcing them to question the concept of reality, community and belonging. For example, the works by Nannucci, Muntadas and Boezem address, as they have since the ‘60s, the representation of the phenomena of nature to deconstruct and analyze the tools of art that can be used to best examine its role in rebuilding the society it finds itself in. The works by the younger artists Paolo Parisi, Domenico Mangano (in collaboration with Marieke van Rooy) and Salvatore Arancio, active since the 1990s, present fresh perspectives on the theme of the journey and memory of landscape, understood not only in physical terms but also as a conceptual and poignant reworking of their personal return to Sicily.

The special projects, on the other hand, concentrate on strengthening the encounter with the city of Palermo. Specifically, Stefania Galegati Shines, an artist from Emilia-Romagna who chose to move to Palermo almost ten years ago, was asked to preview the opening of the exhibition with an exposition of her photographs of Palermo, a “virtual exhibition” published on the event’s social media networks that partially counted down to the inauguration of the project and at the same time served as a gradual in-depth study of the city’s absolutely unique atmosphere. Gianni Melotti will capture, with his unmistakable photographic eye, every phase of the exhibition, from the set-up to its opening: black and white shots that blend, in a unique composition, all the mixed energies underlying the curatorial idea. Lastly, for the closing celebrations in September, Filipino artist David Medalla (the Mondrian Fan Club) will conduct one of his famous performances, “Stich in time,” during which the shared participation of the artist and the public, and the dialogue with the territory, will effectively and conceptually enclose the entire essence of the project. During the same event, the catalogue for “Mental Landscapes / Natural Trajectories” will also be presented, edited by Magonza Editore srl.

The project, a collateral event of **Manifesta 12** and **Palermo Capital of Culture 2018**, was made possible thanks to the collaboration with **AANT_Factory** at **AANT, Accademia di Arti e Nuove Tecnologie** in Rome, which was responsible for the event’s graphic design and communication, **SIMUA**, Palermo’s University Museum System, and **FAM – Fabbriche Chiaramontane** in Agrigento, as well as with **Magonza Editore** in Arezzo, who will publish the catalogue. Thanks for collaboration Assicurazione Italia - agenzia di Palermo D'Acquisto, Informatica Commerciale di Palermo, Fondazione Brodbeck di Catania, Gea - Servizi scientifici, Galleria Federica Schiavo di Roma e l'Accademia di Belle Arti di Reggio Calabria.

/INFO

Mental Landscapes / Natural Trajectories

Opening date and time: *14 June: 18.00-24.00*

Duration: *15 June-30 September*

Opening days and hours: *Mon-Fri: 9.00-13.00, 15.00-17.00; Sat: 9.00-13.00*

Entrance fee: €4

/CURATOR
Lorenzo Bruni

/ARTISTS
Salvatore Arancio • Marinus Boezem • Domenico Mangano & Marieke van Rooy
Antoni Muntadas • Maurizio Nannucci • Paolo Parisi.
Special projects: Stefania Galegati Shines • David Medalla • Gianni Melotti

/VENUES
“G. G. Gemmellaro” Museum of Geology • University Museum System (SIMUA),
(email: mgup@unipa.it, 091 23864665); Cordination: Carolina Di Patti, Carolina D’Arpa.

/GENERAL COORDINATION
Giulia Gueci, Valentina Greco

/GRAPHIC AND COMMUNICATION
AANT_Factory: Rossana Quarta (coordinator) • Beatrice Lops
Simone Crescenzi • Ilaria Narducci • Luca Siciliano • Valeria Silvestri • Andrea
Zinghini

/SETTING UP
Federico Lo Porto and the students from Accademia di Belle Arti of Reggio
Calabria

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/CATALOG
Magonza editore srl, Arezzo

/PARTNERSHIP



/SPONSORSHIP



/ARTIST'S BIO

- *Marinus Boezem* (Leerdam, The Netherlands, 1934; lives in Middelburg) is one of the most important proponents of Conceptual Art, using intangible materials like air, time, wind and light.
- *Antoni Muntadas* (Barcelona, 1942; lives in New York) has always broken conventions and boasted a spirit of transversality. He is one of the pioneers of Media Art and Conceptual Art.
- *Maurizio Nannucci* (Florence, 1939; lives in Florence) has explored the relationships between art, language and image since the 1960s, focusing on the rapport between work-architecture-urban landscape.
- *Paolo Parisi* (Catania, 1965; lives in Florence) focuses on the experience of art as a cognitive practice and a variation of perception, reflecting on painting and the relationships with the landscapes that we intervene with.
- *Salvatore Arancio* (Catania, 1974; lives between London and Nice) uses different medias, from ceramic to video, to reflect on the ambiguous and paradoxical potential of images and cultural landscapes.
- *Domenico Mangano & Marieke van Rooy* (Palermo, 1976 - Weert, NL, 1974; live and work in Amsterdam). Mangano has made a name for himself both nationally and internationally since the early 2000s for his photographic works and videos that touch upon the surreal and documentary. He has collaborated with van Rooy since 2014.
- *David Medalla* (Manila, Philippines, 1938; lives between New York, London and Berlin) is a pioneer of Kinetic Art, Land Art, participatory art and live art.
- *Stefania Galegati Shine* (Bagnacavallo 1973; lives in Palermo) uses multiple forms of media, from photography to painting, to narrate her personal vision of reality, ironic and lucid.
- *Gianni Melotti* (Florence, 1953; lives in Florence) is one of the pioneering artists of the 1970s for the use of photography. He reflects on the relationship between art and the camera with a conceptual approach to the image.

/CURATOR'S BIO

Lorenzo Bruni, an independent critic and curator based in Rome, has worked for various public and private museums in Italy and abroad. Since 2000 he is the coordinator of the non-profit space BASE / Progetti per l'arte (baseitaly.org) in Florence, where he managed several exhibitions as the solo show of Roman Ondak, Richard Long, Jiri Kovanda etc. In 2017 he began teaching at AANT - Academy of Art and New Technologies in Rome, where he taught the History of Art and Visual Arts and Graphic Design.

/VENUE

The Geological Museum, G. G. Gemmellaro, a part of Sistema Museale di Ateneo (SIMUA), is divided into three floors and includes over 600,000 findings subdivided into numerous collections, including Sicilian artefacts, geological and paleontological finds from all over the world.