



Press Release

Gagliano del Capo, June 2016

Capo d'Arte

presents

SHILPA GUPTA
"MY EAST IS YOUR WEST"

Curated by Massimo Torrigiani

VII edition

Gagliano del Capo (LE)

Animated light installation, corso Umberto I, Gagliano del Capo (LE)

Opening: Saturday July 30th, 2016, 8.30pm

Capo d'Arte, a not-for-profit association promoting contemporary art in Puglia, presents the seventh edition of its annual festival in Gagliano del Capo.

Since its inception in 2009, Capo d'Arte has staged an annual show featuring the works of more than 20 major Italian and international artists, often for the first time in Puglia, including Yang Fudong, Soudwalk Collective, Francesco Arena, Kader Attia, Latifa Ekchach, Adrian Paci, Luigi Presicce, Michelangelo Pistoletto and Sislej Xhafa.

Massimo Torrigiani, the third time Artistic Director of Capo d'Arte, is also the President of the Scientific Committee of PAC (Milan's Contemporary Art Museum) and the Artistic Director of the new Centre for Contemporary Arts in Bari.

For Capo d'Arte, he has proposed a cycle of three exhibitions named ALTROVE (ELSEWHERE), which focuses on the exploration of the most far-flung worlds and on cutting-edge creative exper-



imentations, and he has previously invited internationally renowned artists such as Yang Fudong (2014) and Soundwalk Collective (2015).

For this year, he chose one of the most relevant artists in Asia: **SHILPA GUPTA** (Mumbai, India, 1979) with her work "**MY EAST IS YOUR WEST**", which will be installed in the main square of Gagliano del Capo.

The piece is an imposing and thought-provoking neon light installation that makes viewers reflect upon prejudice and that acquires a deeper meaning with its new setting on the Mediterranean, which has now become an epicenter of migrations and conflicts.

Due to its interwoven letters, MY EAST IS YOUR WEST suggests a sense of circularity and reciprocity, halfway between illegibility and clarity, orientation and confusion. The meaning of the sentence only reveals itself when the pulsating light rearranges the letters and, at the same time, the 10 meters artwork illuminates the square below.

Shilpa Gupta has been investigating for many years the complex relations between South East Asian countries and she has focused particularly on social, political and geographical boundaries and identities. Also, she has often used technologies and typefaces in her works, thus revealing her interest in languages and contemporary communication systems.

In its infinite loop, almost like a warning, a truism or a koan, MY EAST IS YOUR WEST is the trigger on a reflection on the malleability and the constant shift on our perception of border and frontier.

The work will be placed on Palazzo Daniele's rooftop – Capo d'Arte's headquarter, a historic building which dates back to the XIX century. The clash between its sober facade and the light installation stimulates a dialogue between the ancient architecture of the square and the essential contemporaneity of the work.

MY EAST IS YOUR WEST will be exhibited to the public for a period of at least three years.

The project has been possible thanks to the collaboration with GALLERIA CONTINUA (San Gimignano, Beijing, Les Moulins, Havana).

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BIOGRAPHIES

SHILPA GUPTA was born in 1979 in Mumbai, where she lives. She is an interdisciplinary artist who uses sound, video, photography and performance to explore themes like desire, religion and security, border and identity. Her works have been exhibited in the most renowned museums and institutions of the world, such as the Tate Modern and Serpentine Gallery in London; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin; Mori Museum in Tokyo; Guggenheim and New Museum in New York and the Chicago Cultural Center. Gupta has also been invited to the Younger Than Jesus Triennial of the New Museum; Lyon Biennial 2009, curated by Hou Hanru; Gwangju Biennial 2008, directed by Okwui Enwezor; Yokohama Triennial 2008, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist; Liverpool Biennial 2006, curated by Gerardo Mosquera and to Auckland, Seoul, Havana, Sydney and Shanghai's Biennials. Gupta has already presented her works in Italy during the 56th Venice Biennial, in collaboration with Rashid Rana, a Pakistan artist, within an important collateral project that has seen India and Pakistan united in a joint artistic journey to overcome the complex political relations between the two countries.

As artistic director of Capo d'Arte for 2014-16, **MASSIMO TORRIGIANI** (Bari, 1966) has curated the exhibitions of Yang Fudong and Soundwalk Collective. He is the president of the Curatorial Board of PAC - Milan's Contemporary Art Museum - and the artistic director of the new Centre for Contemporary Arts in Bari. From 2010 until 2012 he was the director of SH Contemporary, the contemporary art fair of Shanghai, where he currently curates Art in the City, an annual festival dedicated to new art and creativity in China. With Boiler Corporation, his creative agency based in Milan and Shanghai, he develops cultural and communication projects for both companies and institutions. In 2009 he co-founded Fantom, a curatorial and publishing platform dedicated to photography and sound.

CAPO D'ARTE is a not-for-profit organization promoting contemporary art in Puglia, run by Francesca Bonomo and Francesco Petrucci. Ever since its foundation in 2009, Capo d'Arte has staged an annual show featuring the work of major international artists, often for the first time in Puglia, such as Mario Airò, Francesco Arena, Kader Attia, Rossella Biscotti, Ahmet Ogut, Adrian



Paci, Luigi Presicce, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Elisa Sighicelli, Soundwalk Collective, Sisley Xhafa, Yang Fudong, and many others.

THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FRENCH ACADEMY – VILLA MEDICI

Capo d'Arte has developed a partnership with the prestigious French Academy in Rome, with the aim of hosting an artist residencies cycle in Gagliano del Capo.

The French street artists **Lek & Sowat** (Frederic Malek, Paris, 1971, and Mathieu Kendrick, Marseille, 1978) fellows at the Villa Medici for 2015-16, were the first artists who took part to Capo d'Arte residency program.

The artists will realize a site specific installation on July 30th, 2016. They will wrap with cellophane an abandoned building in Piazza Falcone and Borsellino, as they did already for Villa Medici's 350th anniversary.

This will be the third and last intervention Lek and Sowat will undertake in Gagliano. In May 2016 the duo painted an abandoned wheelchair in the local traistation: first the convoy was entirely painted in black and then decorated with white paint - then removed with a water pump - and finally with gold paint. The work is signed R. Mutt, the famous signature that Duchamp used for his urinal, wanting to remind the little attention that the street art has received in recent decades: "Street artists have often been compared to dogs that mark the territory in the suburbs - says Sowat - and that's why we thought at Duchamp's urinal. It is not a tribute, is an outburst". The second contribution, made with the same technique, is a black box on Corso Umberto I with a glass door that overlooks the main square of the village.

With the continuing displacement of people globally having become one of the most pressing humanitarian emergencies in recent history, Capo d'Arte seeks to evoke a meaningful dialogue. Influenced by the iconicity of both its geographic position at the southernmost tip of Puglia and the problematic symbolism that adheres and results in Gagliano being perceived as a 'garrison', this dialogue should dismantle the significance of an outpost and render visible the geographic continuum, as a crossroad between the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa. Gagliano del Capo thus contains both an end and a beginning: the place at the end of Italy and the starting point from which Capo d'Arte seeks to highlight the fluidity and inclusivity in human geography that national borders have so violently curtailed; a geographic continuum moulded only by an cosmopolitan ethic and aesthetic vision.