

CAPO D'ARTE #5

Altrove: YANG FUDONG

CURATED BY DAVIDE QUADRIO AND MASSIMO TORRIGIANI

26 JULY - 4 SEPTEMBER 2014

GAGLIANO DEL CAPO (LECCE)

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From its special observation point, its position de finibus terrae ("the End of the Land"), Capo d'Arte 2014 is renewed, looking on unknown art worlds and makes the exploration of art scenes in other continents its target for the future.

Capo d'Arte points our imagination towards places of frontier, encounters and contrasts, through the work of artists from the other end of the world who deal with geographical and cultural issues of boundaries, exploring what brings us closer and further in time and space. What lays in between the archaic and the contemporary, throughout Asia, Africa, South America and Europe.

When we face infinity we look afar. This year's research brings to light contemporary Chinese art - expression of one of the world's most profound cultures, which is at the same time influential and unknown, transporting it into the historical spaces of Gagliano del Capo, channelling it into the fabric of a place far away from its origin.

A unique opportunity, an internationally acclaimed artist that has been rarely seen in Italy: Yang Fudong, video author, painter and innovator, whose influence extends to film and photography.

In his work, of great aesthetic and technical rigour, past and present merge into a dream-like imagery, polarized between the fabled and the grotesque, which builds on, among a myriad of influences and references, the modernist culture of Shanghai. City of harbor and frontier, a crossroads of cultures of Asia-Pacific and Western influences. This is where in the 1920's the first form of Chinese modernism sprang to life. A submerged culture for decades, now re-emerges in various ways and forms: a matrix that makes the city a unique and different place in the global vision landscape.

The exhibition, structured by contrasts of scale, imagination and duration, includes a series of videos witnessing Yang Fudong's main body of work.

Curated by Davide Quadrio and Massimo Torrigiani (artistic director of Capo d'Arte for the period 2014-16), the exhibition will take place from July 26th to September the 7th, 2014 in several areas of the historical center: the videos will be screened in three uninhabited houses and in a unique space, the patrician Comi Palace, home to the Via Vai foundation.

The intention is to turn Gagliano del Capo into a small center, but a center for contemporary art, and to grant it an international program that can also co-operate with other similar projects and places, in Italy and worldwide.

**Yang Fudong**, born in Beijing in 1971, graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou, currently lives and works in Shanghai, has contributed important works and exhibitions to bring the new Chinese creativity at the center of the global stage. Among his recent personal shows, in 2013: a retrospective at Toronto Film Festival (Canada); Estranged Paradise, Kunsthalle Zurich (Sweden); Estranged Paradise, Berkeley Museum, San Francisco (U.S.A.); Yejiang/The Nightman Cometh, Galleria ShanghART, Singapore. In 2012: Quote Out of Context all'OCT Contemporary Art Terminal di Shanghai; The Fifth Night at Vancouver Art Gallery (Canada); Mariam Goodman Gallery New York (U.S.A.). In 2011: The Distance of Reality, Wifredo Lam Contemporary Art Center, Havaianas (Cuba); Utopia and Reality, Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Tapiola (Finland); One Half of August, Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art, London (G.B.); No Snow on the Broken Bridge, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, e Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (Australia).

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**Massimo Torrigiani** was born in Bari in 1966 and lives in Milan, where he is director of the Scientific Committee of PAC, a contemporary art museum. From 2010 to 2012 he directed SH Contemporary, the contemporary art fair in Shanghai, bringing the project at its peak.

Between 1993 and 2010 he founded and directed the art magazine Boiler and Rodeo, a monthly on contemporary aesthetics; organized events and exhibitions of art and music in unconventional spaces, worked with universities, research centres and publishing projects on the relationship between culture and the city; curated projects for fashion and design brands, written on art and costume for magazines like Purple, Rolling Stone and L'Uomo Vogue.

At the moment, in Shanghai he is the creative director of Art in the City, an art festival at its first edition, while in Istanbul he is curating, with Davide Quadrio, the first major exhibition of Chinese contemporary art, as part of Contemporary Istanbul, the most important art fair in the city.

Simultaneously, with Boiler Corporation, the publishing house and creative agency that he has founded in 2001, Torrigiani develops cultural and communication projects for brands and institutions, working also on the development of the activities of Fantom, an editorial and curatorial project dedicated to photography and music that began with the publication of a quarterly and a series of photobooks.

**Davide Quadrio**, born in Busto Arsizio in 1970, is based in Shanghai since 1991. Having founded and managed, between 1998 and 2010, the BizArt Center in Shanghai, first non-profit artistic-creative laboratory in the city, in 2007 he has created Arthub Asia, a platform dedicated to the production, curation and the advancement of contemporary asian art in Asia. As part these experiences Quadrio has worked on countless exhibitions, educational and cultural exchange projects, supporting relations between institutions around the world.

He was the creative director of the Bund18 Shanghai space (2005-08) and curated the Chinese edition of the exhibition that the Victoria & Albert Museum has dedicated to Vivienne Westwood. Moreover he has curated the itinerant Droog Design exhibition (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing), as well as the solo show of Olivo Barbieri's work for the 2006 Shanghai Biennale: in 2012 he has continued to collaborate with the institution and has coordinated and curated the City Pavilions project.

Amongst his most recent initiatives is the curation of the Qui Zhije exhibition at Fondazione Querini Stampalia during the Venice Biennale 2013; the solo show of Yang Fudong at the Toronto Film Festival 2013; the exhibition of the Indonesian artist Jompet at the Gervatusi Foundation in Venice during the 2011 Biennale.

His articles are published worldwide in magazines, books and catalogs.

He is a member of the Scientific Committee of the PAC, Museum of Contemporary Art in Milan and since 2011 he is a professor at the Institute of Visual Art at Fudan University in Shanghai. Currently he is planning a wing dedicated to the contemporary at the Aurora (Shanghai), and with Massimo Torrigiani, he is working on the first major exhibition of Chinese contemporary art in Istanbul, as part of the city's contemporary art fair.

**Capo d'Arte** is a non-profit cultural association that promotes contemporary art in Salento and of which, Francesca Bonomo and Francesco Petrucci are part today. Since 2010, every year Gagliano has hosted an exhibition of contemporary art with works of more than 20 internationally renowned artists, which including Michelangelo Pistoletto, Kader Attia, Latifa Ekchach, Francesco Arena, Adrian Paci, Rossella Biscotti and Sislej Xhafa.

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