

SECOND EDITION OF THE *PERFORMATIVE02* INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FROM 15 TO 18 SEPTEMBER IN L'AQUILA

four days of art, dance, music and theatre performances featuring over 30 international artists, including **Jacopo Benassi** and **Lady Maru**, **Chiara Bersani**, **Madison Bycroft**, **Alex Cecchetti**, **Jonathas de Andrade**, **Sofia Jernberg**, **Beatrice Marchi**, **Muta Imago**, and **Susan Philipsz**

Opening: Thursday 15 September at 5 pm
Dandalò Summer Pavilion at MAXXI L'Aquila

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L'Aquila, 9 September 2022 – From **15 to 18 September 2022**, L'Aquila will once again become the capital of performance with the second edition of the **Performative** International Festival, as organised by **MAXXI L'Aquila** in collaboration with the **Academy of Fine Arts of L'Aquila** under the patronage of the **Municipality of L'Aquila**; the festival will see the support of **Cassa Depositi e Prestiti** and the contribution of **Ales – Arte Lavoro e Servizi SpA**.

The event will consist of four full days' worth of art, dance, music and theatre performances by over 30 international artists: **Andrea Belfi**, **Jacopo Benassi** and **Lady Maru**, **Chiara Bersani**, **Madison Bycroft**, **Francesco Cavaliere**, **Alex Cecchetti**, **Giulia Crispiani**, **Alessandra Cristiani**, **Dame Area**, **Jonathas de Andrade**, **Michela de Mattei**, **Muta Imago**, **Jacopo Jenna**, **Sofia Jernberg**, **Dan Lippel**, **Violaine Lochu**, **Salvo Lombardo**, **Miltos Manetas**, **Beatrice Marchi & The Friends**, **Susan Philipsz**, **OKAPI**, **Mette Rasmussen**, **Rodion**, **Cory Smythe**, **Ilaria Turba** and **Ole Morten Vågan**.

New productions will intersperse with performances that have already obtained important international recognition, with a view to activating a new reflection on current events, in particular the impact of new technologies in our daily lives. Alongside big names, there will be spaces and moments dedicated to presentations of live actions by the students of the Academy of Fine Arts, these latter being the result of the constant collaboration between the Museum and L'Aquila's higher education institution.

The programme will include art, dance, theatre and music performances with experimental interventions involving the active involvement of the audience; there will also be talks and meetings with critics, curators and art historians, including **Maria D'Alesio**, **Tommaso Pincio**, **Simone Ciglia** and **Cloe Piccoli**. After the success of last year's edition, **con-formances**, i.e. performative actions whose authors freely develop their own view on a theme or an artist, will also make a comeback.

Moreover, as a way to highlight the collaboration between local institutions, the Festival will be spread out in different spaces of the city: witness the rooms of Palazzo Ardinghelli, the Summer Pavilion of the Museum in Piazza Santa Maria Paganica (**Dandalò**), the premises of the Academy of Fine Arts designed by Paolo Portoghesi and, for the first time, the 17th-century Palazzetto dei Nobili, which has been made available by the Municipality of L'Aquila. This year, too, will be an opportunity to explore the surroundings of L'Aquila, as some of the events will take place in **Fontecchio**, a charming medieval village 25 kilometres from L'Abruzzo's capital that has leveraged art and culture as locomotives of post-2009 reconstruction and antidotes to depopulation.

In addition to the physical spaces, there will be no lack of performances referencing the digital world, which is a must for a Festival organised by the first Italian museum to have opened a branch on the Metaverse. Thus, all the performances hosted in the Museum's Sala della Voliera will interact on video with the *Estée Lauder* Indian blackbird, the protagonist of **Michela De Mattei's** work on **MAXXIVERSO**, a space on the Arium.xyz platform that also hosts **Miltos Manetas's** *Floating Studio*; this latter will activate another portal

of his virtual studio during a con-formance in Fontecchio.

Performative02. The Programme

The festival will open on Thursday 15 September at 5 pm on MAXXI L'Aquila's summer pavilion in Piazza Santa Maria Paganica; the Director of MAXXI L'Aquila, **Bartolomeo Pietromarchi**, the Mayor of L'Aquila **Pierluigi Biondi**, the Mayor of Fontecchio **Sabrina Ciancone**, ABAQ President and Director **Rinaldo Tordera** and **Maria D'Alesio** will be attending the event, which will get straight to the heart of the matter with **Roberto Fassone's** con-formance *Profezie* – dedicated to his book of the same name – and **Cloe Piccoli's** talk with **Beatrice Marchi**.

At the same time, not far from the Museum, in the halls of Palazzetto dei Nobili, the **Muta Imago** company will be presenting the first of four scheduled runs of the *Sonora Desert* performance (6, 7:30, 9, 10:30 pm); the evening will continue with the work *Otto Doppio Cono Maschera* by **Francesco Cavaliere** at Palazzo Ardinghelli, concluding in Piazza Santa Maria Paganica with the music of **Dame Area**.

Friday 16 September will open with **Tommaso Pincio's** *VERBA MANENT* and **Anna Lea Antolini's** *Dance and Performance* talks and will continue with performances by Muta Imago.

The day will feature **Jonathas De Andrade's** *Olho da Rua* video-performance, a work between fiction and essay produced by Fondazione In Between Art Film dedicated to a community of homeless people in the streets of downtown Recife, Brazil, where the artist lives. Other appointments will include the *Babel Babel* performance by **Volaine Lochu**, which will explore the vocal world of newborn babies, *Opheleia* by dancer **Alessandra Cristiani** and the performance *BTW, It's Brimming* by **Madison Bycroft**, which will also feature **Louise BSX**.

All the performances hosted in the Museum's Sala Della Voliera will interact via video with the *Estée Lauder* Indian blackbird, the protagonist of **Michela de Mattei's** video performance, which is also present in the MAXXIVERSO virtual space on the Metaverse.

In the evening, the Pavilion in Piazza Santa Maria Paganica will feature the music of **Okapi**, who will present his latest illustrated musical album *OTIS – Vertical Tales*; the programme will be closed by the sound of Andrea Belfi, which is characterised by essential drumbeats and an electronic set.

Performative02 will resume at 11 am on **Saturday 17 September** with talks by **Annalisa Sacchi** and **Simone Ciglia**, followed by the *E.R.A. – Esercizi di Riflessione Applicata* (Applied Refection Exercises) performance by the **students of the L'Aquila Academy of Fine Arts** in the 'unconventional' spaces of Palazzo Ardinghelli.

In the afternoon, the festival will conquer the spaces of the Academy with *L'Animale* by **Chiara Bersani**: the performance will be accessible to a visually impaired audience through live poetic audio descriptions in dialogue with the artist curated by Camilla Guarino and Giuseppe Comuniello. This will be followed by the *Una parete che scotta* (A Scalding Wall) con-formance by **Giulia Crispiani**, inspired by the Abaq building designed by Paolo Portoghesi, and **Jacopo Jenna's** *Alcune Coreografie* (Some Choreographies) performance, dedicated to dance. The day at the Academy will end with *Brutal casual magazine* by photographer and visual artist **Jacopo Benassi** and DJ producer **Lady Maru**: a live set influenced by electronic body music, industrial, synthpunk and noise, plus live photography used as a musical instrument.

The evening will conclude with **Salvo Lombardo's** *Outdoor dance floor*, which will transform the courtyard of Palazzo Ardinghelli into a ballroom, followed by an engaging and liberating DJ set featuring Stravinsky, Bartok, Ravel and **Rodion's** Chopin.

For the closing day, **Sunday 18 September**, Performative.02 will move to the hamlet of **Fontecchio**, as made accessible by a transfer service organised by MAXXI. Visitors will be welcomed by the sound of the poetic installation *Wild is the wind* by artist **Susan Philipsz** in the Cloister of the Convent of Saint Francis. The Cloister will also be the departing point of *Sentiero* (Path), an action conceived by **Alex Cecchetti** that will guide the participants through a walk in nature within a reflection on the notion of physical and imaginary journey. The project will be implemented thanks to the support of the Italian Council (10th edition, 2021), the programme for the international promotion of Italian art of the General Directorate for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture. This will be followed by **Beatrice Marchi's** *// Coro dei Profumati dell'Aquila meets The Friends* performance, which will see the participation of those who responded to the artist's open call. From 12 to 2 pm, the village's Medieval Square will host **Ilaria Turba's** installation *Un tavolo di pani e desideri* (A Table of Breads and Wishes), in which the "breads of desire" prepared in the previous days in the hamlet's old bakery, reactivated for the occasion, will be displayed. Also in Fontecchio, artist **Miltos Manetas**, who was a central part of last spring's *In itinere*

exhibition at MAXXI L'Aquila, will activate another portal of his *Floating Studio* during a conformance in the early afternoon.

After returning to L'Aquila, MAXXI L'Aquila's Summer Pavilion will host talks by **Sibilla Panerai** and **Silvano Manganaro** with **Elena Bellantoni**; at 7 pm, Sala della Voliera in Palazzo Ardinghelli will host the festival's grand finale with a performance by **Sofia Jernberg**, together with **Mette Rasmussen** on saxophone, **Cory Smythe** on piano, **Dan Lippel** on guitar and **Ole Morten Vågan** on double bass.

As with the first edition, Performative02 will be followed in the autumn by a series of events that will animate the museum and continue the research work on the performing arts.

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