



Press release by Italian Council

Silvia Cini
ESTRANEE

4.5.2024
15:00 - 17:30

Kunstraum München -En plein air 2024 -curated by Emily Barsi

in collaboration with
Italian Cultural Institute of Munich

www.enpleinair.de
www.kunstraum-muenchen.de

*En Plein air, performance series in public space, exhibits **ESTRANEE**, as part of the project *Avant que nature meure*, by the artist Silvia Cini, winner of the Italian Council 2022.*

In Munich, Silvia Cini will analyse a portion of spontaneous vegetation, a segment of the anthropized urban territory reclaimed by nature, with the support of the ecologist Eva Schneider. She will systematically categorise part of the present vegetal species, to individuate their native range compared to their new belonging one.

This action highlights the stratified collection of vegetal strains which constitute the landscape. This ensemble, at times harmonious, at times dissonant, is for the artist a metaphor of our evolving society. Reversing the tendency of eradicating invasive alien species, within this activity, perpetuated over the years by the artist, alien plants rise as carriers of an inevitable biological and social transformation, symbolic of the juxtaposition of the concepts of native and migrant, of a group that, once associated, identifies as alien whomever is not part of it. The ecosystem is perpetually transforming, the whole vegetal world welcomes, rejects, integrates and seldom decays beneath the flow of a constant migration, whose result is interspecies coexistence. The systematic nomenclature of spontaneous range, real supranational and interspecies boundaries, is opposed to the borders traced by humankind, voicing the inefficacy of human ambitions to control the earth by subjecting it to his own vision.

Whoever is interested is welcomed to be part of this process. **ESTRANEE** will take place on the **04.05.2024 from 15:00 to 17:30**. The meeting point is Lufthansa express bus stop at Nordfriedhof subway station. From there we will reach the green space as a group (about 20 minutes on foot).

From the 31st of July to the 2nd of August, Kunstraum spaces will host a visual transposition of the urban workshop held on the 4th of May in Munich.

Kunstraum München – En plein air, will therefore be one of the international stages of Silvia Cini's project "Avant que nature meure", realised thanks to the support of the Italian Council (XI edition, 2022), program for international promotion of Italian contemporary art by the Ministero della Cultura, hosted by the Museo Orto Botanico of "La Sapienza" University of Rome, in collaboration with CareOf, Fondazione Lac o Le Mon, Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, Hungarian Garden Heritage Foundation, MAMbo, Museu da Amazonia, PAV Parco Arte Vivente, whose main theme is the observation of urban nature as a representation, on the one hand of social phenomena and on the other of ecological phenomena.

Since the early 1990s, Silvia Cini has engaged in participatory art practices, with a special focus on the landscape depicted as a social metaphor, intertwining art and botany. "Avant que nature meure" is the result of her research, started in 2015, on the blossoming of wild orchids in Rome urban context, leveraging them as bioindicators of the city's wellbeing. The artist is systematically mapping the wild orchids in Rome, taking inspiration from Enrico Coleman watercolours, realised between 1983 and 1910, preserved at the Istituto Centrale per la Grafica, where the two artists' artworks will be reunited once the project is completed.

Through this mapping, the artist intends to sensitize the institutions and technicians so that the mowing times are changed, thus contributing to the preservation of the orchids still present. In the summer of 2023, the first exhibition of the project was held at the ELTE Botanical Garden in Budapest, a journey among environmental audio installations, sculptures, orchid embroidery on laboratory coats, linked to the Matyò tradition, pictures, data and performances, which will carry on with the exhibition at the Museo Orto Botanico of Rome from the 29th of May to 8th of September 2024.

Within this framework, rises the collaboration with En Plein Air performance series held in public spaces. Worldwide renowned artists are invited to Munich to create activities which belong to a chosen location and have a participatory nature to actively involve the participants.

Silvia Cini, is an artist and curator whose artworks thrive on an often-personal dialogue created with the public. She frequently focuses on the landscape as a social metaphor, by intertwining environmental audio installations and botanical research. Still very young, she cofounds the Gruppo Immagini and she collaborated with Keith Haring in realizing the “Tuttomondo” mural in Pisa. In 1994, she cocreates with Salvatore Falci the AAVV group in Milan, she then cooperates with Cesare Pietroiusti in projects such as "DisorsordinAzioni," "Il Gioco del Senso e Non senso" (XII Quadriennale di Roma), and the Oreste Group, with whom she takes part to the 48th Venice Biennale. In 1997, she curates the series of exhibitions "Frame” at Ferro di Cavallo, in collaboration with the Accademia di Belle Arti of Rome, promoting the early stages of relational and public art in Italy. She collaborates with Carolyn Christov Bakargiev and Hans Ulrich Obrist at the Académie de France à Rome to produce the exhibition "La Ville, Le Jardin, La Mémoire." Over the years, she continues her curatorial activity, (Invideo for the Triennale di Milano, Icityperiferiche, Palazzo Re Enzo Bologna, Loggia della Mercanzia Genova, Cartabianca, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Villa Croce Genova, Cantieri Culturali della Zisa, Palermo), alongside her exhibitory work. Since the late 1990s, she has collaborated with the Neon Gallery, alternating solo and collective exhibitions (Galleria Continua, Zero, GoldanKauf, MamBO) in Italy and abroad. She has also worked with the Faculty of Landscape Architecture in Genoa, conducting workshops on art and landscape. In 2000, she receives the prize Atelier from Fabio Mauri, at the Galleria Comunale d’Arte Moderna of Rome, now known as MACRO. In 2004, the city of Genova, on the occasion of Genova 2004 European Capital of Cultures, she is awarded, through the Museum Villa Croce, the Duchessa Galliera Price. In 2022, she is one of the winners of the eleventh edition of the Italian Council - AMBITO 1.

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Part of Various Others Spring 2024, Contemporary Art Munich.