



Porta Coeli Foundation

The finalists of the Mediterranean Contemporary Art Prize at the Castello di Monteserico.

From 16 to 26 September, Common Ground, the exhibition of finalists of the second edition of the prize organised by the Porta Coeli Foundation

On 16 September at 5.30 p.m., at the **Castello di Monteserico** in Genzano di Lucania, **Common ground**, the exhibition of the finalist works of the Mediterranean Contemporary Art Prize **2021**, organised by the Porta Coeli Foundation, will open. More than 50 artists from 11 countries worldwide, divided into four sections of the competition, will meet, as per the prize's statute, in a place of excellence of the Frederician parable in Basilicata. The exhibition ends on 26 September with the award ceremony, and is organised under the patronage of the Municipality of Genzano di Lucania, the Municipality of Vicchio and the Università Popolare degli Studi di Milano, in collaboration with the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio della Basilicata, Nei Restauro e Costruzioni and the Pro Loco di Genzano di Lucania.

The prize, conceived and organised by the Porta Coeli Foundation and curated by Donato Faruolo, is now in its second edition, which has had to cope with considerable complexity and uncertainty caused by the pandemic and economic situation: a second edition, however, considered essential for the maintenance and consolidation of the format. It will also be the eighth exhibition inaugurated by the Foundation in a pandemic situation, demonstrating how urgent it is to protect the territory and its cultural needs, all the more so in times of compression of civil and spiritual life. The prize, beyond the purely competitive reasons of awarding €5,000 in prize money to support the artists' activities, is a mechanism for meeting and confrontation between works and the public, which opens up real opportunities for exchange and connection and which, for the Foundation, proves to be an exceptional tool for getting to know, among other aspects, the work of Lucanian artists who have never had the opportunity or felt the need to interact with their home territory. The President of the Porta Coeli Foundation states: «we propose the best possible conditions so that the Lucanian territory, with its prerogatives, can consolidate its vocation, never really experienced, as a common ground, that is, as a place of cultural intermingling capable of generating processes of identity evolution and artistic research on an international scale».

The international jury that will award the prizes includes the Superintendent Architect **Francesco Canestrini**, the artist **Dario Carmentano**, the Maestro and Conductor **Pasquale Menchise**, the Iranian artist and lecturer **Noushin Bodaghi** and the President of the Porta Coeli Foundation **Aniello Ertico**. The artists in the exhibition come from Italy,

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iscritta al registro delle persone giuridiche
al n.75 determina dir. 11ab.2019/d.00075



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Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, Greece, China, Taiwan, Iran, Argentina, the United States and Lebanon.

The first edition of the prize was held in 2019 at the Castello di Lagopesole: an experience that attracted attention beyond expectations and that involved artists and visitors from literally every corner of the planet in a prototype of a temporary artistic community, in an exceptional place that has been brought back to a new, well-deserved centrality. The Monteserico Castle sharpens and multiplies that sense of vibrant magnetism given by the disproportion between centrality in decisive historical events and marginality in contemporary economic life and imagery: an exceptional potential in particular for art, which is increasingly nourished by dialogue with the specific energies of places, outside the principle of the aseptic white box.

Today nestled in a landscape of astonishing solitude and beauty, the castle, in search of a vocation, is located on one of the first sites of clashes and encounters between Normans and Byzantines, at a crossroads between Northern and Eastern Europe that changed the destinies of humanity.

During the ten days of the prize, the castle will therefore be brought back to the community's attention and the territory, also thanks to targeted visits to the area for participating artists and events open to the public. In particular, on Saturday 18 with the concert/performance by Inga Liljeström (Australia/Finland) and Marwan Nahlé (Lebanon/United States), and on Saturday 25 September with two important contemporary dance performances from the Città delle 100 Scale festival programme: Marco Di Nardo / Frantics Dance Company&Moloty and Ares D'Angelo / Martina Martinez Barjacoba.

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The finalist artists on show.

For the **painting** category: Alieh Abedini, Maryam Andaz, Akram Baghi, Åse Birkhaug, Rochu Chiu, Bruno Di Lecce, Shaghik Edvartezarian, Samantha Inman, Pedram Javani, Lila KB, Kevin Kuenster, Roberta Marconi, Faezeh Mohammadi, Marwan Nahlé, Carmine Palladino, Sabina Romanin, Giuseppe Rossini, Zahra Zolfaghari Sinjani, Nahid Kaka Tafti, Faeze Talashan, Hamid Zare.

For the **sculpture and installation** category: Marco Fiume, Giulietta Gheller, Niko Kapa, Donato Linzalata, Nisio Lopergolo, Francesco Mestria, Claudia Olendrowicz, Carmine Palladino, Nemanja Popadic, Beatrice Summa, Daniele Venturi, Cristiana Vitartali, Federica Zianni, Sara Zunino.

For the **photography and video art** category: Giulietta Gheller, Jun-Yuan Hong, Davide Iotti, James Johnson-Perkins, Salvatore Laurenzana, Massimo Lovisco, Selina Mayer, Roger Moukarzel, Mariano Silletti, Giuseppe Sinatra, Sara Valle.

For the **graphics and illustration** category: Bernardo Bruno, Karmil Cardone, Giulia Huober, Ilaria Moscardi, Vincenzo Suscetta, Ling-Li Wang.

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Mediterranean Contemporary Art Prize / 2nd edition

Common ground

16 - 26 September 2021

Monteserico Castle, Genzano di Lucania - Potenza

www.mcartprize.org

opening 16 September 2021, 5.30 p.m.

open every day, 10.00 - 13.00 / 15.00 - 19.00

for information

mc.artprize@gmail.com

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organised by Porta Cœli Foundation

curated by Donato Faruolo

under the patronage of Comune di Genzano di Lucania, Comune di Vicchio, Università Popolare degli Studi di Milano in collaboration with Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio della Basilicata, Nei Restauro e Costruzioni, Pro loco di Genzano di Lucania

catalogue published by Porta Cœli Edizioni

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