



PRESS RELEASE

Andare con le radici (Going with the roots) **Wurmkos**

The Parliament of Things **Chiara Antonelli, Davide Barberi, Alessandro Cavallini,** **Traian Cherecheș, Chiara Scodeller**

Curated by Marco Scotini
June 10 – October 22, 2023

On Friday 9 June 2023 at 6 pm, PAV Parco Arte Vivente is pleased to present the exhibitions of the **Wurmkos** group's *Andare con le radici (Going with the roots)* and the collective show *The Parliament of Things* with **Chiara Antonelli, Davide Barberi, Alessandro Cavallini, Traian Cherecheș** and **Chiara Scodeller**. This program has been curated by Marco Scotini, linking the production by the historic Milanese collective with a generation of young artists who trained in a Masters in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies and the Academic Masters in Art and Ecology on the Milan campus of NABA, the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti.

Andare con le radici (Going with roots) **Wurmkos**

Six years from the solo exhibition created in 2017, *La Passione del Grano* (A passion for wheat), the Wurmkos group returns to the PAV with the previously unseen project *Andare con le radici* (Going with the roots). The exhibition, consistent with the urgencies highlighted in the previous double-handed solo exhibitions by Marcelo Expósito and Oliver Ressler, curated by Marco Scotini, identifies in the plant world an environment from which it is possible to select new models of life aimed at imagining virtuous forms of social cohabitation, in an attempt to unseat the constitutional hierarchies of neo-liberalist politics.

The Wurmkos visual arts laboratory, founded in 1987 at Sesto San Giovanni, is a 'Basaglia type' experience (the psychiatrist Franco Basaglia promoted the shutting down of psychiatric hospitals in Italy) that links art and psychological distress without any attempt to propose objectives of salvation. As with all the group's other activities, in the project presented at the PAV, those taking part and cooperating, with distress or otherwise, are artists, critics and the people who participate in the multiple acts of birth, growth and development of the projects. *Andare con le radici* (Going with the roots) began to take shape in the spring of 2020 and is the result of a journey of self-reflection and transformation whose subject is, primarily, the methodologies adopted by the group

itself. As part of this process, the practice of mutual aid theorized by the militant thinker Pëtr A. Kropotkin becomes a fundamental reference point: a primordial thrust that lies at the center of every form of biological and social life, mutual aid consists of a guiding principle in the evolution of life on earth.

Various examples of alliances between plants, fungi and diverse forms of life highlight how, in nature, survival in conditions that, at times, appear unsuited to supporting life, can be possible thanks to reciprocal support. Knowing and studying the living beings that have inhabited planet Earth for much longer than human beings, means learning new strategies from elements that have developed the best adaptation tools and, as pointed out by Stefano Mancuso, by studying biodiversity, we can cultivate views that help us to understand our pluralities. Looking at roots, we can learn how to collectively manage the risks and difficulties of 'underground life' through coordinated movements aimed at the creation of a common area, imagining behaviors that take form by means of relationships of alliance. Thus, in the urban subsoil, far from a distracted center, artists with heterogeneous journeys, exactly like the different species of plants, interweave stories and signs that do not necessarily need to be interpreted but just taken on board.

The exhibition is designed beginning with an underfoot device where the area is conceived for being lived as a ground, a piazza, a universe, a flow that hosts a community of plants that no longer conforms to an anthropocentric vision. The collective work probes the space not only as a visual field but also as an environment in which it is possible to experience and abolish hierarchies, passing from a vertical to a horizontal condition. The project is the fruit of a series of elements that come together without fusing into one and with the collective aim of 'making worlds' without losing their uniqueness.

By means of a process of transformation and valorization of diversity, *Andare con le radici* (Going with the roots) connects our bodies with the body of the territory, interpreting the workshop as a plural environment. A host of trees that, from a wood becomes a forest: an ecosystem based on the interdependency of organisms, a gigantic, vital texture whose existence is achieved thanks to the variety of its consistent elements.

As part of the programming of the Workshop with the artists run by Pav's AEF Attività Educative e Formative (Educational and Training Activities), on Friday 9 June, the Wurmkos group will be holding an open seminar for the students of the Fine Arts Academies, while, on Friday 15 September, they will hold a public workshop entitled *Andare con le radici* (Going with the roots).

The Wurmkos group is composed of the following: Susanna Abate, Cecilia Amaya, Michela Blandini, Simona Camisani, Marco Campanella, Pasquale Campanella, Walter Carni, Caterina Caserta, Roberta Colombo, Moira Cretti, Giulia Croce, Alice Cutuli, Angela Di Bartolomeo, Salvatore Fede, Antonio Ferro, Tina Mastrolembo, Jelena Milosevic, Francesco Munari, Elisabetta Notarangelo, Laura Plebani, Patrizio Raso, Michael Rotondi, Greta Sassone, Monica Sgrò, Marta Tonetti, Vincenzo Trunfio, Daniele Warm, and Chiara Zappella.

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The Parliament of Things

Chiara Antonelli, Davide Barberi, Alessandro Cavallini,
Traian Cherecheș, Chiara Scodeller

From 9 June 2023, the project room and outside areas of the PAV will be hosting the collective exhibition *The Parliament of Things*, curated by Marco Scotini, with Chiara Antonelli, Davide Barberi, Alessandro Cavallini, Traian Cherecheș and Chiara Scodeller, young artists who have

trained in the Specialist Masters in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies and the Academic Masters in Art and Ecology at the Milan campus of NABA, Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti.

What emerges from the exhibition *The Parliament of Things* is how the theories and practices that have animated political ecology and eco-feminism since the second half of the previous century, have shaken up and disturbed the compact and monolithic ground of the neo-liberal and heteropatriarchal model. Such a “landslide” has ensured for subsequent generations new furrows to be followed and new substrates to be inhabited, in an attempt to bring to the surface aesthetic forms based on, by now, nodal visions such as the transcending of the oppositional categorizing of nature and culture and of gender and the returning of meaning to autobiographical and collective experiences.

Amongst the projects presented at the PAV, the ethnographic study of magical-protective systems that characterize Norcia’s historic-cultural ecology is the subject of Chiara Antonelli’s *In Acqua e terra la mano* (In Water and land the hand). This is a performance in which six inhabitants of the Umbrian town, the epicenter of the 30 October 2016 earthquake, recover from an ecology of local memory the ancient rituals of ‘acqua panata’ in order to revive in the present a form of comfort linked to the trauma experienced during the quake. Traian Cherecheș’s sculptures return meaning to autobiographical experiences through the residual elements of his childhood lived in Romania, reforming memories and physical elements by assembling organic and inorganic materials, such as in *New Skin as sister-nature*, where an artificial skin disassembles the decomposition of the biological matter beneath the surface. In the installation, *Il fungo delle Alpi* (The mushroom of the Alps), Davide Barberi translates the experience of crossing and contemplating a vast alpine landscape into physical and tangible form. What he is attempting is to represent and control, by means of technological devices, an otherwise ungovernable territory, recalling the stunned effect that overtook his body during this crossing. Chiara Scodeller presents *Erbario di genere - I fiori ermafroditi come concetto di genere nell’antropocene* (Herbarium of gender - Hermaphrodite flowers as a concept of gender in the anthropocene) a manual in which 40 botanical illustrations of hermaphrodite flowers are collected and linked together in a slideshow that re-models the vignettes of Gay Flowers created by Stafania Sala for the magazine *Fuori!* - Italian Revolutionary Homosexual Unitary Front. Lastly, Alessandro Cavallini’s project, *The Parliament of Things*, gives life to a manifesto for the representation of the absent in which subordinate ecologies are in dialogue. A cry of urgency that, passing through visual anthropology to ethnomusicology, fuses organic aesthetics with technology.

The exhibition’s title, *The Parliament of Things*, is a direct reference to the program of political ecology developed by the philosopher and anthropologist Bruno Latour who - by rejecting modern humankind’s determination to not acknowledge the rights, autonomy and agency of things - suggests the creation of a ‘parliament of things’ aimed at extending the democracy and representational rights not only to human beings but also, and above all, to non-humans.

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Press Office Lara Facco P&C
Viale Papiniano 42 – 20123 Milano | T. +39 02 36565133 | E. press@larafacco.com
Lara Facco | M. +39 349 2529989 | lara@larafacco.com
Denise Solenghi | M. +39 333 3086921 | denise@larafacco.com