



PRESS RELEASE

ANTHROPOCENE

Ecological crisis and transformative potential of art

Symposium 4th-5th May 2018

On Friday 4 May, at 3.30 pm, the PAV Parco Arte Vivente will present *Anthropocene, ecological crisis and transformative potential of art*, two days of international conference that aims to celebrate the ten years of PAV opening with the exhibition curated by Marco Scotini *The God Trick*.

Theoretical session: The Problems of the Anthropocene

The impact of human activities on the Earth's systems was synthetically defined as 'Anthropocene' in an article for the scientific magazine 'Nature' by geochemical Paul Crutzen in 2002. This definition has been developed to date by various scientists and philosophers and has become a term common to all environmental movements.

Today, amid increasingly-evident signs of an upcoming ecological collapse – from global warming to acidification of the oceans, from depletion of natural resources to progressive decrease of biodiversity – analysis based on the idea of the Anthropocene make us aware that the human species has the destructive capacity of a 'geological force', not because of a generic human responsibility, but as an effect of the capitalist development model and its global technostructure directed to profitable growth. According to today's neoliberal capitalism the exploitation of the physical, intellectual and social working force, and the voracious appropriation of natural resources, are, in fact, essential. Today's key questions are then: How much time is still left before the ecosystemic crisis becomes irreversible?

With what social, political and cultural praxis can we start the deep transformation needed to create a social and bio-centric society in an harmonious relationship with planet Earth's ecosystem?

The debate will be opened on **Friday 4 May at 3.30 pm** and foresees the participation of **Serenella Iovino, Serge Latouche, Stefano Mancuso and Luca Mercalli**, moderated by **Vincenzo Santarcangelo**.

Artistic session: Art's potential in the social bio-centric transformation

The Anthropocene represents, to us humans, also an ontological and existential drama, as sensitively recognised by the artists who today work towards a radical change in our perception of nature and other life forms.

Art can play a key role in the cultural construction of the new bio-centric social model, matching ecological activism and the political mobilisations happening across the whole planet. On this theme we need to reflect on thee essential questions. Through which means of

expression can artists encourage a different attitude in individuals' relationship with living beings and the planet's natural systems? How can art contribute to the in-depth analysis of scientific knowledge on the subject of ecological crisis in its various geophysics, climatic, and social aspects? By what methods can art efficiently cooperate with political ecology activism, and concrete experimentation of new production models in the spirit of common good and biological solidarity?

Discussion and debate, which will intertwine in this lecture, should ideally be an enhancement of the theoretical arena in which Parco d'Arte Vivente, during 2018's Art Program, will implement a broad international exhibition on Anthropocenic themes, inviting artists chosen by a collegiate curatorial board to realise works, in situ installations, and participative events in the second half of 2018. The aim of this exhibition will be to identify new and captivating communicative methodologies to encourage a more determinate awareness of the gravity of the anthropocenic crisis and of the social needs of ecologic conversion in every level of public opinion.

The debate will be opened on **Saturday 5 May at 10 am** and foresees the participation of **Gaia Bindi, Nathalie Blanc, Valerie Da Costa, Marco Scotini** and **Sue Spaid**, moderated by **Franco Torriani**.

The plenary will be opened on **Saturday 5 May at 3 pm** and will be introduced by **Piero Gilardi** and **Roberto Marchesini** and opened to the interventions of the artists of *The God-Trick* exhibition.

At the end of the conference, Saturday at 6 pm, **Bonnie Ora Sherk** will give a speech. **Steve Kurtz** – Critical Art Ensemble will lead the workshop *Environmental dilemmas: Necropolitics and Public*, on **Sunday 6 May**, from 12 am to 4 pm.

The lecture will be delivered in Italian and English, inside of PAV museum.

The symposium and the exhibition are supported by Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione CRT, Regione Piemonte and City of Turin, in collaboration with Fondazione Centro Studi Piero Gilardi and Kabul Magazine.

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