



una boccata d'arte

20 artisti
20 borghi
20 regioni

Milan (MI)

June, 23 2022

From 25th June to 18th September 2022

Una Boccata d'Arte returns for a third consecutive year

20 artists, 20 villages, 20 regions

The village of Castiglione di Sicilia (CT) in Sicily

welcomes the intervention 'Post-Mythical Accidents' by Isaac Chong Wai

Opening: Sunday 26th June at 6.00pm

Castello di Lauria, Via Edoardo Pantano, Castiglione di Sicilia

www.unaboccatadarte.it

The third edition of *Una Boccata d'Arte* begins **from 25th June to 18th September 2022** - a widespread contemporary art project by **Fondazione Elpis**, in collaboration with **Galleria Continua** and with the participation of **Threes Productions**, takes place throughout Italy and promotes a coming together of contemporary art with the country's artistic and scenic heritage through art installations, exhibitions and performances by 20 artists in 20 villages, one for each region.

The village of **Castiglione di Sicilia** (CT) in **Sicily** will welcome *Post-Mythical Accidents* by the artist **Isaac Chong Wai** (1990, Guangdong, China), a site-specific intervention inspired by the history and the identity of the village, conceived after a short residency period.

Post-Mythical Accidents is a widespread project of five installations that intertwine reality, myth, religion and magic. Isaac Chong Wai: "Nature, religions, myths and beliefs can never be explained without the desires and needs of man. If I delve into the history of Castiglione di Sicilia, I see the trace of religion and mythology. The country's culture, history and religion intersect with its geographical location at the foot of Mount Etna, a living volcano that threatens potential disasters and accidents. On the basis of local myths, for each work of art I have created post-myths that connect religious or architectural objects, designed to satisfy people's spiritual, physical and political desires, with the stories of the mythological characters of Etna such as Vulcan, Cyclops, Typhon, Odysseus and Zeus. When our supposed world of reality is explained through myths whose character contains something irrational, it is as if an accident is generated. Reflecting on the creation of myths and the power of narratives integrated into a religious, cultural or political context, I am interested in underlining the absurdity of an anthropocentric approach, committed to the attempt to control nature and the immanence that instead distinguishes the indomitable essence of nature itself".

Una Boccata d'Arte started in 2020 in the middle of the pandemic: a unanimous and original project that's akin to a **unique cultural itinerary** that each year invites the public to discover 20 new Italian villages, rich with centuries old traditions and natural beauty. Thanks to their small size, these villages

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become the perfect place for an **authentic and intimate contemporary art experience** that is unique for the surprising dialogue that it generates between the surrounding area, the artworks, the local people and the visitors. The installations contribute to an increase in local tourism; they are aimed at a broad and diverse audience, inviting us to rediscover the history and beauty of Italy, with a fresh perspective.

“Una Boccata d'Arte is a widespread project that involves local communities in beauty and culture throughout Italy. Since its conception in the midst of the pandemic, this project was proven to consolidate its original purpose of encouraging local communities and the art world, in order to gather together a network of artists, curators, associations and local entities today, that increases year by year”, explains Marina Nissim, President of Fondazione Elpis. “With the participation of several artists from abroad in this upcoming third edition, an open dialogue between Italy and the current international situation is instated”.

Maurizio Rigillo, Director of Galleria Continua: *“The villages and the artists are at the core of the project which derives from a careful observation of the history and landscape of the former, and the research and work of the latter. The artists who visited and stayed into the villages for the very first time had the chance to have meaningful dialogues from which art projects and site-specific interventions were conceived. These values of generating encounters and dialogues have led us to research and involve three Ukrainian artists, who are different in personal experiences and artistic languages and have empowered this third edition of Una Boccata d'Arte by sharing their testimony and presenting their projects”.*

From emerging artists to well-known names, the artists selected for their talent and research have been invited to conceive **20 site-specific interventions inspired by the history and identity of the villages**. After a short residency period, supported in each project phase by a local coordinator, they have created twenty projects that cover many different art forms, from painting to sculpture, photography, video, sound and performance, the result of dialogue and encounter with the inhabitants and local artisans.

Una Boccata d'Arte is a unique exhibition experience that leads the public to embark on an extraordinary journey to discover contemporary art and the most authentic heritage of our country. It's a real **open-air museum** that year after year offers an unprecedented cultural experience that's for everyone: not only for professionals but most importantly for curious visitors and art lovers.

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Sicily, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)

Isaac Chong Wai

Post-Mythical Accidents

26.06 – 18.09.22

Via Edoardo Pantano, Piazza XI Febbraio, Via Federico II

Text by Giulia Pollicita

Post-Mythical Accidents is a widespread public work by Berlin-based artist Isaac Chong Wai who investigates the layered complexity inscribed in the landscape of eastern Sicily. Intertwining reality, myth, religion and magic, Chong's intervention unfolds in a series of installations scattered around the village of Castiglione di Sicilia.

Observing the wonder and constant fear of living at the foot of Mount Etna - source of life and constant threat of uncertain benevolence at the same time - the artist reflects on how the uncontrollable force of nature shapes a sense of immanence in human thought and behavior. Taking refuge in myth, faith or superstition, we try to scoff at fate and explore the mystery of nature. By forcing the unexplainable into the creation of myths and narratives, human beings pigeonhole what they cannot foresee within an anthropocentric vision.

The installations *Accidental Confessional* and *Lightless Chandelier* investigate the persistence of myth and religion, intertwining traces of Homer with the Christian tradition.

Accidental Lava Stone got stuck in a Bus Stop and *Accidental Lava Stone hits a Facist Ornament* connect with the Mediterranean legend of Ulysses and Polyphemus and the myth of the Faraglioni from Acitrezza, interacting with the surrounding area and recent history.

Shangai (2022), well-known as Mikado game in Italy, represents the scene in which mystification, exoticism and different cultures alternate without rules, depending on an order set by the real and the unreal, history and myth, religion and the primitive instinct of survival.

In this context, the "post-mythical" represents a hybrid area where the rules of reality are suspended and a new order is established by narrative, fiction, fantasy and magic.

Works:

Shangai, 2022, installation, 40 elements (120 x Ø 5 cm each), lava stone, metal base (300 x 240 x 5 cm), overall dimensions 240 x 300 x 130 cm. Via Edoardo Pantano 46 (on the terrace of the Castle of Lauria), Castiglione di Sicilia (CT).

Accidental Confessional, 2022, installation, mirror-laminated steel, ca. 130 x 100 x 100 cm. Via Edoardo Pantano 46, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT).

Lightless Chandelier, 2022, installation, mirror-laminated steel, chains, 60 x 50 x 50 cm, Via Edoardo Pantano 40, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT).

Accidental Lava Stone got stuck in a Bus Stop, 2022, installation, lava stone boulder, variable dimensions, pre-existing advertising medium (70 x 100 cm). Bus stop in Piazza XI February, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT).

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Accidental Lava Stone hits a Facist Ornament, 2022, installation, lava stone, variable dimensions. Via Federico II - 122, Castiglione di Sicilia (CT).

Acknowledgments

Marina Nissim, Bruno Barsanti, Maurizio Rigillo, the staff of Fondazione Elpis and Galleria Continua, Serena Guarino, Elisabetta Negroni, Antonio Camarda - Mayor of Castiglione di Sicilia, Michele La Rosa, Don Orazio Greco, Moiz Zilberman, Zilberman Gallery, Renato Leotta, Istituto Sicilia, Paolo Fontana, Lotte Laub, Gizem Demirçelik, Leo Gerstberger, Isidoro Mazza and Anna Mignosa, Mariavittoria Capodicasa, Annalaura Capodicasa and Sergio Pollicita.

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Isaac Chong Wai (1990, Guangdong, China)

Isaac Chong Wai is an artist working between Berlin and Hong Kong. He works across a range of media, comprising performance, sculpture, video, painting and photography. His practice unfolds the struggle of powerlessness, precariousness and structural violence in the social and political spheres and engages with transnational collective memory and woundedness. Influenced by personal and international phenomena, he deals with topics of collectivism and individualism, geopolitics, identity politics, LGBTQ, power relations and decentralization, social movements and commemoration in public space.

His solo exhibitions include Bilsart, Istanbul (2021); Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong (2019); Zilberman, Berlin (2019); Kunstraum München, Munich (2018); Goethe Institut, Hong Kong (2018); Bauhaus Museum, Weimar (2016). His work has been shown at Kunstraum Kreuzberg/ Bethanien, Berlin (2021); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Innsbruck Biennial and IFFR, Rotterdam (2020); Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei and Guangdong Times Museum, Guangzhou (2019); M+ Museum and Para Site, Hong Kong and Times Art Center Berlin (2018); among the others.

Chong was awarded Fellowship at Kulturakademie Tarabya and Talent Award at Jutta Cuny-Franz Memorial Award, Kunstpalast Museum in 2020, and Warsteiner Blooom Award in 2019. He is one of the participating artists at Urban Heat from 2015 to 2018. He was awarded Burger Collection "Artist Scholarship Program" in 2016, and Bauhaus Essentials Award in 2015 and 2014.

Isaac Chong Wai's project in Castiglione di Sicilia is coordinated by **Giulia Pollicita** for Istituto Sicilia.

Castiglione di Sicilia (CT), Sicilia

Stretching out over 120 sq km, Castiglione di Sicilia is one of the largest municipalities in the province of Catania. It has a population of about 3,000 inhabitants, divided between the historical centre itself and the various hamlets Gravà, Mitogio, Passopisciaro, Solicchiata, Rovittello, Verzella. The area straddles two regional parks, Etna and Alcantara. Since prehistoric times, it has been located on a ridge of sandstone rock and the site where Castiglione currently stands has always been a strategic control point for the Alcantara Valley. The ancient medieval city was characterised by its surrounding wall that had nine access gates: del Re, Speciale, Castello, Pagana, Giudecca, Portello, Buceria, San Pietro, San Martino - burgum or porta Priolo, while the smaller villages remained outside the wall. What remains of the ancient urban fabric is the classic medieval centre with radial alleys that eventually climb up to the top of the village where the tall and majestic Castle of Ruggero di Lauria looks out over the surrounding area. The more recently built part of town overlaps with the actual historic centre in an alternation of more modern streets and squares. Passing through the historic centre, many old noble palaces are noticeable. Here, as well as in the churches, you can clearly see the alternation of architectural and construction elements in igneous stone and sandstone. The area is world famous for the production of Etna Doc wines. The town is part of the initiative *Borghi più Belli d'Italia*.

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Fondazione Elpis

Established in 2020 by Marina Nissim, an entrepreneur and collector of contemporary art, its aims are the protection, enhancement and promotion of the expressive forms of contemporary arts and creativity. Through the realization of projects - in particular *Una Boccata d'Arte* - exhibitions, residences and meetings, it focuses primarily on the support of young and emerging artists, coming from different countries and cultures, whose talent deserves opportunities for visibility and support.

The new exhibition venue, currently undergoing renovation, will open to the public in Milan in the autumn of 2022.

www.fondazioneelpis.it

Galleria Continua

A contemporary art gallery founded in 1990 by Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo, today it has seven locations around the world: in 1990 it opened in San Gimignano, a small Tuscan village; in 2004 in Beijing, in the 798 district; in 2007 in Les Moulins, in the Parisian countryside; in 2015 in Havana, Cuba; in 2020 in Rome, inside The St. Regis Rome, and in São Paulo, Brazil, inside the Pacaembu sports complex. In January 2021, it inaugurated a new exhibition space in Paris, in the Le Marais neighborhood. In November 2021, it opened a temporary exhibition space in Dubai inside the Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah.

www.galleriacontinua.com

Threes Productions

Curatorial team and creative agency based in Milan, which focuses its practice on projects that intersect sound, art and landscape. For the third edition of *Una Boccata d'Arte*, Threes curates the interventions of Riccardo Benassi in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Eva Marisaldi in the Marche and Hanne Lippard in Basilicata.

www.threesproductions.com

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Information

Una Boccata d'Arte - III edition

20 artists, 20 villages, 20 regions

25.06 – 18.09.2022

A project by Fondazione Elpis, in collaboration with Galleria Continua, with the participation of Threes Productions.

www.unaboccatadarte.it

For information: info@unaboccatadarte.it

Social

IG: @unaboccatadarte | FB: Una Boccata d'Arte | #unaboccatadarte

Artists participating in the third edition

Simone Bacco (1995, Rome, Italy), Fabrizio Bellomo (1982, Bari, Italy), Riccardo Benassi (1982, Cremona, Italy), Lucia Cantò (1995, Pescara, Italy), Ludovica Carbotta (1982, Torino, Italy), Isaac Chong Wai (1990, Guangdong, China), Antonio Della Guardia (1990, Salerno, Italy), Victor Fotso Nyie (1990, Douala, Camerun), Serhiy Horobets (1985, Lviv, Ukraine), Alina Kleytman (1991, Kharkiv, Ukraine), Hanne Lippard (1984, Milton Keynes, Great Britain), Luis López-Chávez (1988, Manzanillo, Cuba), Dessislava Madanska (1991, Smolyan, Bulgaria), Giulia Mangoni (1991, Isola del Liri, Frosinone, Italy), Eva Marisaldi (1966, Bologna, Italy), Diana Policarpo (1986, Lisbona, Portugal), Alice Ronchi (1989, Ponte dell'Olio, Piacenza, Italy), Tommaso Spazzini Villa (1986, Milan, Italy), Natália Trejbalová (1989, Košice, Slovakia), Anna Zvyagintseva (1986, Dnipro, Ukraine).

Villages participating in the third edition

Albori (SA), Aggius (SS), Castiglione di Sicilia (CT), Castropignano (CB), Cigognola (PV), Fumone (FR), Grottole (MT), Malamocco (VE), Montegridolfo (RN), Montemarcello (SP), Morgex (AO), Neive (CN), Panicale (PG), Pesariis (UD), Rocca San Giovanni (CH), San Costanzo (PU), San Donato di Ninea (CS), San Lorenzo Dorsino (TN), Sorano (GR), Spinazzola (BT).

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**The pairings of artists
and villages for the third edition
of Una Boccata d'Arte**

Aosta Valley	Antonio Della Guardia in the village of Morgex (AO)
Piedmont	Natália Trejbalová in the village of Neive (CN)
Liguria	Alice Ronchi in the village of Montemarcello , fraction of Ameglia (SP)
Lombardy	Alina Kleytman in the village of Cigognola (PV)
Trentino-Alto Adige	Giulia Mangoni in the village of San Lorenzo Dorsino (TN)
Veneto	Lucia Cantò in the village of Malamocco , a hamlet of Venice (VE)
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Riccardo Benassi in the village of Pesariis , a hamlet of Prato Carnico (UD)
Emilia-Romagna	Diana Policarpo in the village of Montegridolfo (RN)
Tuscany	Serhiy Horobets in the village of Sorano (GR)
Umbria	Luis López-Chávez in the village of Panicale (PG)
Marche	Eva Marisaldi in the village of San Costanzo (PU)
Lazio	Dessislava Madanska in the village of Fumone (FR)
Abruzzo	Victor Fotso Nyie in the village of Rocca San Giovanni (CH)
Molise	Tommaso Spazzini Villa in the village of Castropignano (CB)
Campania	Fabrizio Bellomo in the village of Albori , a hamlet of Vietri sul Mare (SA)
Apulia	Simone Bacco in the village of Spinazzola (BT)
Basilicata	Hanne Lippard in the village of Grottole (MT)
Calabria	Anna Zvyagintseva in the village of San Donato di Ninea (CS)
Sicily	Isaac Chong Wai in the village of Castiglione di Sicilia (CT)
Sardinia	Ludovica Carbotta in the village of Aggius (SS)

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