



Under the Spell of Africa is a curatorial project by Adriana Rispoli carried out under the “Italia Cultura Africa” program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The program is based on a principle of exchange and osmosis between our cultures through the visionary tool of art with the aim of generating a bilateral contamination between the invited artists and the territories on which they interact, through a direct relationship with the local realities, artistic or not, mediated and coordinated by Italian diplomatic institutions.

Raffaella Mariniello
NATURA CULTURA ARTIFICIO
16 novembre – 1 dicembre 2019
opening 16 Novembre 2019 h 6 p.m.

Foundation Donwahi
Boulevard des Martyrs, Abidjan Costa d’Avorio

NaturaCulturaArtificio by RaffaellaMariniello is the first exhibition of Under the Spell of Africa, which is the result of the artist’s stay in the Ivorian city of Abidjan at the Italian Embassy. It was hosted by the prestigious Fondation Donwahi.

The exhibition consists of three large-sized photographs, reflecting the thought and vision of the artist on the city that she describes as an "augmented reality".

With her characteristic use of light made of contrasts and backlighting, the artist approaches the city passing from the port in continuous expansion under the pressure of foreign investments - *artifice* -, to the power of *nature* in the Banco National Park whereman struggles to clear a path.

In the exhibition standsout the image that summarizes *culture*: "Lavanderia", probably the largest in Africa.

"It is a wonderful scene, a Venus of the Rags dismantled and spread on the ground. The Venus is replaced by a stupendous dark figure, which has nothing of statuary to envy to the goddess" (RM)

The symbolic parallel between this image, in which a man of totemic value embodies boththe power and minuteness of the human being, and the iconic work of Arte Povera by Michelangelo Pistoletto embodies RaffaellaMariniello's research dynamics aimed at social and cultural subjects with particular attention to the relationship between man, daily lifeand nature.

The *NaturaCulturaArtificio* exhibition was accompanied by a talk open to the public between the curator, the Italian artist and the Ivorian photographer Ananias Leki Dago, who this year represents his country at the Venice Biennale.

Raffaella Mariniello (Naples 1962, where she lives) is one of the most famous Italian photographers. She has exhibited in numerous national and international institutions including MaisonEuropéenne de la Photographie, Paris; Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Turin; Palazzo Fortuny, Venice; MADRE Naples Museum; MAXXI Rome; House of Photography Villa Pignatelli Naples. In 2018, the Italian Cultural Institute in Madrid dedicated her the solo exhibition, "*Drifting from the landscape*".

Flavio Favelli

Here He Is!

Opening 12 February at 12:00

International Public Art Festival

Kremer Street Salt River

Cape Town South Africa

Flavio Favelli is the second participants of the **Under the Spell of Africa**

Participating in **IPAF International Public Art Festival in Cape Town** that sees the contributions of 20 international artists, Favelli created a large wall painting on the facade of a building in the Salt River area.

His art work recaptures, in a monumental scale, the front page of the Sunday Times, the best-known newspaper in South Africa, of 11 February 1990. The faded image, placed in an unsettling horizontal direction, portrays Nelson Mandela's first public appearance after 27 years of imprisonment. The appropriation of a world icon such as Mandela relates to different levels of reading, a physiognomy today so universally famous to become a POP figure whose image, however, had been "hidden" for so long during his years in prison. Favelli, as usual with his interventions in the public space, interprets the identity of the places through a cross-cutting look that unites the history, customs and society of which Mandela, the Sunday Times and the advertising of Mills cigarettes have indeed become the symbols. Exactly thirty years after this front page, the artwork reflects on the future starting from the past, on the slow disappearance of the press paper in favour of digitalization, the official theme of this year's IPAF Festival, eventually becoming a warning on the speed of today's information. In spite of the new technologies increasingly ever-present in the art field, Favelli paints manually and without the help of stencils, airbrushes or projectors.

The site-specific work by Flavio Favelli was created following a two-week residence thanks to the collaboration with the **Italian Cultural Institute in Pretoria**.

The work Here He Is was presented by Adriana Rispoli at Invest CapeTown art Fair in the context of the talk on Museums in the 21st Century with Koyo Kouoh (Dir Zeitz Mocca) Nana Oforiatta Ayim, curator of Ghana Pavillion in Biennale di Venezia 2019, Sonia Lawson (Dir. Palais de Lome Museum)

Flavio Favelli was born in Florence in 1967 and lives in Bologna.

His aesthetic language recovers suggestions from conceptual art, investigates the flows of existence as subjective and collective memory condensed into objects or environments up to expand to the urban sphere. He has exhibited in important spaces and museums of contemporary art in Italy and abroad, including MAXXI in Rome, Castello di Rivoli in Turin, Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation in Turin, GAMEC in Bergamo, MAMBO in Bologna, MACRO in Rome, Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, MOCA, Chicago, IIC in New York and Los Angeles and has participated in two Venice Biennales: the 50th edition in "Clandestini", curated by F. Bonami and the 55th edition in "Vice Versa" Italian Pavilion curated by B. Pietromarchi, and at the Havana Biennial in 2012.

Eugenio Tibaldi
Anthropogenic Connection
11 December 2020
Zoma Museum
Addis Abeba Ethiopia

Anthropogenic Connection by Eugenio Tibaldi, is a project developed between September 2019 and December 2020, in collaboration with Zoma Museum and the Institute of Italian Culture in Addis Ababa with the support of construction company Elmi Olindo & Co. Two components sit at the heart of the project: Anthropogenic Bridge and Anthropogenic Herbarium, respectively, a permanent site specific-installation, and a series of studio-produced artifacts that represent, to an extent, an articulate travel journal/herbarium. The project embodies the Italian artist's working method. It is a synthesis of two stays in Addis Ababa that he used to conduct a social, anthropological and economic inquiry on the city. The organic intersections between nature and artifact, game and technic, architecture and art, are the project's distinctive traits. They reflect a desire to connect different cultures for the production of an artwork with a hybrid identity, particularly in Anthropogenic Bridge – a playful and functional engine, resulted from an intense collaboration with local productive realms, which embodies the artist's poetics and aesthetics of fragment and marginality. Eugenio Tibaldi is the first artist to participate in Zoma Museum's Bridge Residency Program. His bridge is a non-bridge, ending in a slide. This makes it into a performative sculpture that invites the public to interact with it. The synthesis between nature and artifact returns in the decorative elements that imitate the lush surrounding vegetation with discarded materials. In the midst of pop colors and details, car tires, corrugated metal sheets, and plastic water jugs take the shape of flowers, agave and eucalyptus leaves. The bridge, a symbol of connection and exchange, turns into an access to a new view point – on the surrounding environment as well as on the city's socio-economic dynamics, embracing the transformative potential of new generations. Anthropogenic Bridge will be inaugurated on December 10th, within the context of the 16th celebration of the Day of Contemporary Art, an initiative of the Association of Italian Museums of Contemporary Art (AMACI, Associazione dei Musei d'arte contemporanea italiani). The inauguration will also host the premiere of the documentary "Eugenio Tibaldi_ Anthropogenic Connection a site specific project in Addis Ababa" produced by the Institute of Italian Culture in Addis Ababa. Anthropogenic Connection by Eugenio Tibaldi is also the last chapter of the project "Under the Spell of Africa" curated by Adriana Rispoli between 2019 and 2020, part of the program Italia Cultura Africa of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The complete project involved the work of Raffaella Mariniello in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and Flavio Favelli in Cape Town, South Africa. It is based on the idea of cultural exchange and osmosis through art, with the objective to stimulate relationships and mutual influences between the participating artists and the locality where they worked.

Eugenio Tibaldi (Alba 1977) is known internationally for his cross-disciplinary research on art, urban studies and architecture, with a focus on peripheries and their aesthetics. Using different media, Tibaldi documents and uncovers the transitions from institutional formality, economics and aesthetics that exist in given regions. He does so through a multidisciplinary analysis that involves directly the communities in which the process takes place. In recent years he has worked in several cities, including Istanbul, Cairo, Rome, Thessaloniki, Berlin, Verona, Havana, Bucharest, Turin, Caracas, Brussels, Tirana and Addis Ababa. He took part in a number of international shows, exhibiting both in public and private artistic spaces, including Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino, (2007), Manifesta 7, Bolzano (2008), International Centre of Contemporary Art Thessaloniki, Bucharest (2009), Museo Madre, Napoli (2010), State Museum of Contemporary Art (2011), XII Biennale de L'Avana (2015), Museo Ettore Fico, Torino (2016), Palazzo del Quirinale (2017), Museum MCDA Manila, (2017), Istituto italiano di Cultura New York (2017). Museo MAXXI, Roma (2018), Biennale di Venezia,

Padiglione Cuba (2019), Museo del 900 Milano (2019), Galleria Nazionale di Roma (2020). He followed the advanced course of visual arts (CSAV) at the Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como, attended the Domus Academy in Istanbul, and was Affiliated Fellow at the American Academy in Rome. His works are exhibited in important public and private institutions in Italy and abroad. After living for 15 years in Naples, he currently lives and works in Torino.

Zoma Museum Bridge Residency Program Zoma Museum has more than forty small, temporary bridges, crossing over irrigation channels, throughout its garden. The Bridge Residency Program is aimed at establishing collaborations with artists from around the world to replace these temporary, functional structures with permanent artistic bridges, symbols of creative relations between cultures of different nations. Anthropogenic Bridge is the first bridge realized under this program. It has been built thanks to the support of the Italian Cultural Institute in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with construction company Elmi Olindo & co. The resulting artistic project, Anthropogenic Connection, has been curated by Adriana Rispoli, as part of the program Under the Spell of Africa, sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Zoma Museum is an environmentally conscious art institution, named after Zoma Shiferraw, a young Ethiopian artist who died of cancer in 1997. It was founded by contemporary artist Elias Sime and anthropologist and curator Meskerem Assegued. Its mission is to share knowledge on innovative contemporary art and architecture with anyone from anywhere, focusing on bringing eco-sensitive ancient knowledge of art production, architecture and landscaping to the present. Social and Environmental sustainability are at the heart of the organization's design and planning strategy. Urban farming and permaculture, botanical conservation, accessibility, and sustainable constructions methods are the distinctive features of all Zoma Museum's projects. The heart and soul of Zoma Museum is its namesake. The museum located in Mekanisa, Addis Ababa is on urban farmland, previously a site of informal landfill.

The artistically landscaped gardens feature a wide range of indigenous vegetation, including vegetables, herbs and trees. Zoma Museum is also home to Zoma School, a kindergarten and elementary school where the development of children's creativity and natural talents are encouraged through a curriculum that incorporates gardening, cooking, music, visual arts and sign language.