

FLASH BACK

Flashback
Ecosystem for Contemporary Cultures
Corso Giovanni Lanza 75, Turin, Italy

EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES, INSTALLATIONS AND CURATORIAL PROJECTS

GAZA, OPERA VIVA and OPERA VIVA, IL MANIFESTO - STARGATE TO GAZA

by Alessandro Bulgini

curated by Christian Caliandro

Pavillon B, ground floor

Since its inception sixteen years ago, and especially with the editions of *Taranto Opera Viva* (2016-2018), Alessandro Bulgini's artistic project *Opera Viva* has always **aimed at shedding light on neglected, marginalized and submerged areas of existence and everyday reality** – and to do so through the pure presence and discreet action of the artist.

In this sense, **the red “uniform” is a signal**, an *indicator*: it stands for a possible connection, a tenuous and though essential link. The author thus becomes – as Giulio Paolini wrote – the bearer of the artwork: and the work itself is the context, or rather, the relationship with the context.

Here, the reflection deepens, and the context becomes the most tragic and significant event of the century: as it has already been said, written and recited, ‘we thought we were liberating Gaza, but - instead - it is Gaza that is liberating us’. Over the last two years, a place, a strip of land, a battered space has become much larger than its physical boundaries, transforming itself into a powerful metaphor for other injustices, other abuses of power, other forms of oppression. **And so, observing Bulgini's body and the mark of this red T-shirt positioned in city centers (Milan, Rome, Turin) and among the stands of contemporary art fairs (Art Basel, miart) immediately establishes a connection, a relationship, which is at the same time a detachment, a distance: that which separates a tourist, creative and economic world that seems to want to go about its business as if nothing had happened, that is, that seems to want to pretend nothing has happened at all costs, and the trace, the memory, the symptom of something that has gone wrong, terribly wrong.** Something that is out of place, and always will be. Something that, like everything that has been removed – and like the sailing boat with the flag at the top of the mast towering above the wall of the first room – will return again and again and again...

On the other hand, there is almost nothing worse than hearing and reading Westerners (us) *speaking on behalf of the Palestinians* – just as it is always tragic to hear older people talking about young people, interpreting young people, judging young people on their behalf. **Therefore, this project would not have been complete without the posters in Piazza Bottesini, which this year – for the edition entitled Stargate to Gaza – have featured photos taken directly from the Strip.** Since 2016, this poster has been a window and - at the same time - a hollow space, an interstice that helps us glimpse what has been, and what is coming. (Christian Caliandro). This has been even more true in recent months, opening up like a portal onto 14 snapshots that are glimpses of life, modest and neglected, visual evidence of resilience and resistance. Because ‘art must be a mediator between here and elsewhere’ (Alessandro Bulgini).

We would like to thank: the Our Voice Association, the Palestinian Community of Palermo, the representative from Gaza Amal Khayal, and the authors of the images: Jacopo Intini (Gaza NGO

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collaborator), Majed Abu Shala, Randa Abu Ramadan, Haya Saqer, Ahmed Akkila, Intisar Ibrahim, Amal and Amira Khayal.

NEVERLAND GAZA

by **Alessandro Bulgini**

by appointment every

Open to visitors from September

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Pavilion C – Area closed to visitors, second floor

The work is conceived as a space of closeness and resonance. An intimate installation, built from everyday objects donated by people – rugs, chairs, lights, a camping stove – which become instruments of relation. The work stages an imaginary ritual, inspired by the gesture of shared tea amidst the rubble of Gaza during Ramadan. In this suspended and disarmed context, art becomes a habitable space, real, and profoundly our own. "The work does not describe, does not comment, does not communicate" – writes Christian Caliandro in the text accompanying the project – "it does not address a subject: it lives it, moves through it, experiences it. And that something, at that point, is no longer a subject. It is reality."

COMPASSIONE

by **Alexander Mostafa Fazari**

curated by **Alessandro Bulgini**

Pavillon C, Il Circolino

In **Alexander Mostafa Fazari's** language, calligraphy is not simply decoration or an aesthetic gesture, but a form of secular prayer, an act of listening that transcends matter to restore meaning to silence. In *Compassione*, the artist transforms a fragile, everyday material — **golden thermal blankets**, symbols of emergency, protection and survival — into a luminous skin that covers the walls of the Circolino, the former spiritual heart of the foundling hospital and now a convivial space of Flashback Habitat. The gesture is simple but deeply meaningful: those thin golden surfaces, created to save lives, become the fabric of a new possible humanity. **On them, the artist's hand writes verses from 'The Prophet' by Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran.** *Compassione* stems from the desire to restore meaning to a word that is often misused, but which in its original meaning — cum patior, "to suffer together" — contains an invitation to reciprocity, responsibility and care. Deprived of its utilitarian function, the matter is elevated to a luminous epiphany that combines fragility and strength, precariousness and salvation. The gold reflects the observers, compelling them to recognize themselves within the surface they are observing. In **Alessandro Bulgini's** curatorial vision, *Compassione* represents one of the highest expressions of the dialog between art and life that runs through Flashback Habitat: **a gesture of radical openness**, a reminder of vulnerability as a common condition, an exercise in empathy that opposes the logic of separation. *"In a world that tends to close itself off, compassion becomes the most revolutionary form of openness. It is an invitation to recognize in others the same thirst for peace, justice and beauty. Fazari's art, like Flashback itself, is a place where difference is welcomed and embraced."*

An artist of Egyptian origin, **Alexander Mostafa Fazari** lives and works in Turin. His research explores the relationship between sign and identity, word and image, spirituality and city. For him, calligraphy is a universal language capable of uniting distant worlds: Islamic aesthetics, Mediterranean sensitivity and contemporary reflection coexist in his works.

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UNCONSCIOUS ELEVATION

by Carl Pfeil

Audio installation

Pavilion B, elevator

Unconscious elevation (61'22") is a versatile installation rooted in the liminal space that lies between existential ascent and descent. The title derives from the 'recovery position' and suggests the return of vital energy from a state of immobility. The elevator physically immerses us in the artwork, where a progressive, sonic elegy leads us towards inner thresholds, whilst a blue, transparent and changing object illuminates the artist's paralysing thought: the desire for change and the longing to accept reality.

Carl Pfeil was born in South Tyrol; he works and lives between Turin and Bolzano. Trained in analogue photography and cinema (including studies as a director of photography, also abroad), he has developed a poetic style that straddles the boundary between image, sound and physical experience. In recent years, he has created site-specific works and immersive installations based on meditative and sensory processes, capable of activating relationships between space and memory, perception and silence.

OPERA VIVA BARRIERA DI MILANO, THE BILLBOARD

A project by Alessandro Bulgini

Pavilion B, ground floor and stairways

Opera Viva, Barriera di Milano, Il Manifesto is a public art project established in 2015 that uses the municipal public advertising space of Piazza Bottesini in Turin (Cimasa 56530). As in much of his poetry, creator and artist Alessandro Bulgini narrates and acts with and on lateralities, diversity, physical and cultural periphery. The Flashback Habitat space displays all the images from the posters of the ten editions, which involved more than 70 national and international artists.

PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

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UNA VITA MIGLIORE (A BETTER LIFE)

Fragments of Stories from the Institute for Childhood of the Province of Turin

A work by Alessandro Bulgini, in collaboration with Città Metropolitana di Torino

Flashback Habitat, Pavilion B, 3rd floor

Exhibition *Una vita migliore. Frammenti di storie dell'Istituto Provinciale per l'Infanzia della Provincia di Torino* intends to give voice again to the multitude of worlds that intertwined in the halls of the facility, namely Turin's former foundling hospital, through glimpses of stories and some of the protagonists. Through original fragments, collected thanks to the collaboration of those who were there at the time, documents recovered from the historical archives of the Province of Turin and direct testimonies, Bulgini orchestrates a choral work where history, emotions, art and life are intertwined.

mater

Alessandro Bulgini

Luce d'artista / Costellazione / Città di Torino

Pavillon C, roof

Usually works are gifts, this one even more so. Alessandro Bulgini

Installed on the roof of Pavilion C, the tallest building in Corso Lanza 75, *mater* is visible from Porta Nuova station all along Corso Vittorio Emanuele II in Turin.

Alessandro Bulgini's artist's light is a vision in the dark, a gift dedicated to those who were born more than forty years ago in the current location of Flashback Habitat, the former *Istituto per l'Infanzia* of the Province of Turin. *mater* is a tangible sign of an invisible presence, the imprint of the mother left in the short time she has been here, and represents for those who were born here, the space in which to find themselves. It is a work that gives light to a desire, and from the roof of the oldest and highest villa of the former Institute, it has become a beacon, a sign, a pole star to follow.

Vivarium

The Flashback Habitat Art Park

Vivarium [from Latin *vivo* - alive] is Flashback Habitat's permanent outdoor exhibition, transforming the large 9,000 square meter green area into a constantly evolving art park. Devised in 2022, the idea is to create a space where works of art integrate and interact with the natural, historical and human environment. The works are 'adopted' by Flashback, which welcomes them and allows them to take root in the ecosystem.

Sedie nello spazio (Chairs in Space) by Fabio Cascardi, *Mushroom Forest* by Michel Vecchi, *Tout se tient* by Luisa Raffaelli, *Donna a braccia aperte*, *Uomo a vagare*, *Pulcino con i riccioli d'oro* e *Pittore con un occhio solo* (Woman with Open Arms, Man Wandering, Chick with Golden Curls and Painter with One Eye) by Carl Von Pfeil, *Light of the Apocalypse* by Alessandro Bulgini and *Reality Fiction* by Maurizio Taioli.

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Ecosistema per le culture Contemporanee

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