

*Opening Exhibition*

***WORDS WITHOUT ACTION POISON THE SOUL***

a project by Eva Frapiccini  
curated by Connecting Cultures and Isole  
November 8, 2018  
h. 19.00

Italian Cultural Institute in Brussels



THE EXHIBITION

The cultural associations Connecting Cultures and Isole will present in Brussels the second step of the project *Words without Action Poison the Soul* by the artist Eva Frapiccini, project winner of the first edition of the 2017 Italian Council grant, a competitive grant created and supported by Directorate General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries (DGAAP - Direzione Generale Arte e Architettura contemporanea e Periferie urbane) of the Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage and Tourism (Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo) to promote Italian contemporary art around the world.

After the first opening in Palermo, as part of the official program of European Capital of Culture program (Palermo Capitale della Cultura), and concurrently with the opening of Manifesta12, the exhibition is now shown at the Italian Cultural Institute in Brussels from November 9-22, 2018.

The last third step of the project will be the acquisition of the installation by the Municipal Museum of Modern Art, Information and Photography in Senigallia (Museo d'Arte Moderna, dell'Informazione e della Fotografia), which will organize an additional, temporary exhibition open to the public until March 2019.

## THE PROJECT

The project was originally designed by the artist in 2014, as part of an exhibitional project curated by Connecting Cultures, Isole and the lawyer Caterina Niccolai on the subject of legality at the Courthouse in Palermo. Between 2017 and 2018, after spending a period of time in Sicily, Frapiccini resumes her work and unveils this project thereby concluding her research on the victims and the protagonists of the mafia wars.

The photographic installation is the fruit of a participatory project that engaged historical archives and mafia think tanks, relatives of the victims, schools, and libraries in Palermo and in the rest of Italy, in a journey to research the figures that characterized the fight against the mafia from the 1970s to the 90s. The approach chosen by the artist focuses on the personal and intimate dimension that is seen in the testimonies of magistrates, journalists, trade unionists, police inspectors, and private citizens who have spent their lives battling the mafia. Through photographic documentation the project highlights everyday tools, such as speeches, registers, notebooks, and other notes that have been collected and stored in many private archives. The artist's work is therefore an archive in progress, which, through an accessible, searchable and engaging installation, invites the public to delve into the daily life of these individuals. The artist's analysis focuses in particular on the relationships between the lines of inquiry that were pursued either at the same time or years later by various people. These leads were interrupted as they constituted a threat to mafia trafficking; and the artist reminds us that people have been killed precisely because they were far too virtuous by way of their Action.

Words without Action Poison the Soul has been realized with the support of the Municipality of Palermo – Department of Culture and the Department for Youth Policies, School, Work, and Health and the collaboration of Accademia di Belle Arti in Palermo – Department of Communication and Art Education; Archivio Storico Comunale di Palermo; Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Brussels; Liceo Artistico Catalano in Palermo; Liceo Artistico Ragusa-Kiyohara in Palermo; MUSINF - Museo d'Arte Moderna, dell'Informazione e della Fotografia di Senigallia. Media Partner: Exibart.

The exhibition catalog is published by **Silvana Editoriale**, Milan.

### **We thank the following for their cooperation in this project and for providing access to their archives:**

#### **Government agencies, associations, private archives:**

Associazione Casa Memoria Felicia and Peppino Impastato ONLUS, Cinisi (PA); Centro Diocesano in Palermo; I.C.S. Padre Pino Puglisi, Brancaccio; Centro Siciliano di documentazione "Giuseppe Impastato"; Istituto Gramsci Siciliano for Nisticò Fund, La Torre Fund, and Terranova Fund, Palermo; Fondazione Giuseppe Fava, Catania; Memoriale Falcone e Borsellino, Tribunale di Palermo.

#### **Relatives of the victims:**

Francesca and Giuseppe Maria Andreozzi; Flora, Augusta and Vincenzo Agostino; Manfredi Borsellino; Giovanni Chinnici; Michele Costa; Valentina Rigano and Marco D'Aleo; Giulio Francese; Emanuela, Selima and Ines Leotta Giuliano; Alice Grassi; Carmine and Franco Mancuso; Marene Ciaccio Montalto; Dario Montana; Tina Martinez Montinaro; Salvatore Lorusso; Maddalena Rostagno; Antonio Scaglione.

#### **We thank the following for their support:**

Francesco Deliziosi, journalist for Giornale di Sicilia; Franco Nicastro, historian and journalist; Ignazio De Francisci, Attorney General in Bologna; Antonello Marini, Assistant Police Chief, Palermo; Salvo Palazzolo, journalist for La Repubblica; Emilia Valenza, professor at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Palermo; Clara Cardella, Agostino Di Trapani, Nino di Ciaccio, Calogero Rizzo, Giovanni D'Oca, Giusy Viola, teachers at the Liceo Artistico Ragusa-Kiyohara di Palermo; Letizia Lo Re e Lucia Corsaro, teachers at the Liceo Artistico Catalano di Palermo; Giovanni Papa Arcuri, manager of Memoriale Falcone e Borsellino, Courthouse of Palermo.

## INFO

**Opening on November 8, 2018 at 19.00.**

The exhibition will be opened **November 9-22, 2018** with the following schedule: **Mon-Fri 9.30-13.00 / 14.00-17.00.**

Free entry.

### Istituto Italiano di Cultura

Rue de Livourne, 38 - 1000 Brussels

ph.+32 (0) 25332729

[https://iicbruxelles.esteri.it/iic\\_bruelles/it/](https://iicbruxelles.esteri.it/iic_bruelles/it/)

## CONTACTS

### Connecting Cultures

Via Novi 2, 20144 Milan

Laura Riva | [l.riva@connectingcultures.info](mailto:l.riva@connectingcultures.info) | ph. +39 0236755360

[www.connectingcultures.it](http://www.connectingcultures.it)

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Visual artist **Eva Frapiccini** lives and works in the United Kingdom and Italy. Her practice experiments a variety of media and methodologies: slide projections, video & sound installations, film, photography, narrative fictions staged, performance. Her works are included in a number of institutional collections such as the Castello di Rivoli, Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation; MAMbo, Museum of Modern Art of Bologna, Fondazione Fotografia di Modena, the Monza Civic Collections. From 2011, she is Associate Lecturer at the Fine Art Academy of Bologna, Fine Art Academy of Ravenna. From October 2015, she is attending to the practice-based Ph.D. in Fine Art, History of Art & Cultural Studies at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

**Connecting Cultures** is a non-profit research agency based in Milan, founded in 2001 by Anna Detheridge. CC works with artists, architects, designers, performers and the public with interdisciplinary and intercultural objectives aiming at: promoting collective awareness of local resources; training young professionals in the field of visual arts; providing opportunities for emancipation and capacity building within the sphere of intercultural exchange, acting as catalysts for change and a sustainable future. Some of the main projects: the seminal art exhibition *Public Art in Italy. The Space of Relations* (2003), in collaboration with Cittadellarte-Pistoletto Foundation. *Valdarno Project*, commissioned by Regione Toscana in collaboration with Artway of thinking collective. *Art and Survival* (2005) a relational art project with the artist Cesare Pietroiusti between Bosnia and Italy, in collaboration with the Triennale Museum of Milan and UniCredit Art Foundation. *Imagining Parco Sud* project (2007-2012) for returning visibility to an ancient and repressed territory such as Parco Agricolo Sud in Milan, in partnership with Architecture, Agriculture, Urban Planning Faculties in Milan; Brera Academy of Fine Arts; University of Newport (UK) and Academy of Performing Arts in the Czech Republic. *Art, Heritage and Human Rights Award* for young artists and cultural institutions, with the support of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (four editions between 2010 and 2016). *Milan and Beyond: Young Creativity Towards New Urban Ecologies* (2010–2013), a project funded by the Cariplo Foundation, has experimented with new forms of social commitment and local economy in Barona, Bovisa, Quarto Oggiaro and Bicocca quarters in Milan. *Small Chaos – Living Sant’Elia! Three-act Melodrama* (2013) a public art project by Marinella Senatore, curated by Connecting Cultures. It involved a community of citizens from Sant’Elia, in a collective work expressing the soul of the district and its people. *Density* (2013-2016), a Cariplo invitation for an integrated project in Municipality 6 in Milan, aimed at connecting, through culture and the plurality of its expressions, strategies for social cohesion, economic development and urban regeneration. *Fashion as Social Energy* 2015, Palazzo Morando-Museum of Fashion, Milan, the first exhibition in Italy dedicated to the relation between Art and Fashion, with national and international artists such as Lucy Orta, Kimsooja, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Claudia Losi, Marzia Migliora and Luigi Coppola. *Out of Fashion* (from 2014), training course within the field of ethical and responsible fashion, in partnership with CNA and the Gianfranco Ferré Foundation. *Intercultural Encounters* (2015–2017) a training course for intercultural museum guides aimed at promoting art collections in the city of Milan and the dialogue between different cultures, in collaboration with Comunità Nuova Onlus and with the support of the Cariplo Foundation and UBS. In 2017 Connecting Cultures, together with Isole Association, won the first edition of the Italian Council award launched by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries of the MiBAC, with the Art and Lawfulness research project and the production of the first of a series of works entitled *Words without Action poison the Soul* by the artist Eva Frapiccini, dedicated to victims of Sicilian Mafia and to the culture of lawfulness.

Founded in 2007 by art historians G. Costanza Meli and Barbara D’Ambrosio, **Isole** set up a contemporary art and culture workshop for the territory called “*progetto Isole*”, involving artists from various Italian cities with the aim of encouraging creative interventions in public contexts of naturalistic, historical and social interest. Beginning with this first workshop, the association branched out into a research project dedicated to contemporary art practices aimed at anthropic and intercultural encounters. In 2009 Isole participated in the foundation of ADA, a national network of nonprofit cultural associations. In 2011 Isole won the first edition of the Art, Heritage and Human Rights award, curated by Connecting Cultures and Fondazione Ismu – Heritage and Interculture, with the project *Out of the box* by the Impossible sites, dans la rue collective for the Piana degli Albanesi Municipality (PA). Between 2011 and 2013 Isole participated in the creation and planning of the Museum and Studies Centre on Lampedusa and Linosa Migrations, dedicated to the collection of objects belonging to migrants and discovered on the island, paying particular attention to the cataloguing and restoration stages; in addition to the exhibition entitled *Con gli oggetti dei migranti (With the Objects of Migrants)*, Lampedusa, July 2013. Within the sphere of this project, Isole has conceived and curated a programme of international residency, inviting the artists Bridget Baker (in collaboration with Nosadella.due and the Nomas Foundation) and Emily Jacir to the island. Since 2017 Isole has been coordinating, the *Oggetti migranti. Dalla traccia alla voce (Migrant Objects. From the Trace to the Voice)* project, in collaboration with AMM Archive of Migrant Memory, Rome, dedicated to accounts of migrations in the Mediterranean; its first exhibition, *Oggetti migranti. Dalla traccia, alla voce*, has been staged on the premises of MLAC, Museum of Contemporary Art of the “La Sapienza” University of Rome. In 2017 Isole was awarded, together with the Connecting Cultures, the first edition of the Italian Council award launched by the Directorate General for Contemporary Art, Architecture and Urban Peripheries of the MiBAC (Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities) with *Words without Action poison the Soul* project by artist Eva Frapiccini – dedicated to the history of Mafia and to the culture of lawfulness. In 2018 Isole curated the *ImageMemory. Archive of Europe Under Construction* exhibition, on the premises of the State Archive in Florence. The exhibition has collected and exhibited oral and visual material to the public, created by migrants and native Europeans, within the sphere of the BABE “Bodies Across Borders: Oral and Memory Across Europe and Beyond” research project, promoted by the European Research Council together with the European University Institute in Florence.