



Fondazione Orestiadi



PRESS RELEASE

Gandolfo Gabriele David

PANINGENESI

Curated by Lori Adragna (Italian section)

-
Mario Bajardi

GOD IS BURNING

Curated by Floriana Spanò (Italian section)

LIVE PERFORMANCES

Friday, 10 September 2021, from 6:30 pm

Selinunte | Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa, and Pantelleria

On Friday, 10 September 2021, from 6:30 pm, Mr Bernardo Agrò, the Director of the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa, and Pantelleria, will have the pleasure of presenting two live performances to the national and international public. The first originates from a Land Art creation and the second from Contemporary Electronic Music.

The project was developed by MLC Comunicazione and its first version was presented in 2018 thanks to the successful cooperation between the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa, and Pantelleria, the 'Riso' Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Palermo, and the Monira Foundation, headquartered in Jersey City, USA. Having withstood the powerful, negative impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, **the project takes life again today and can finally be realized conveying a strong message of rebirth and sharing.**

The event was conceived in 2018 as an exchange of residencies between Italy and the United States, and allows the work of Sicilian young artists to be promoted in the USA.

The new project with a powerful symbolism will be realized this year in cooperation with the Orestiadi Foundation and the 'MAC Ludovico Corrao' Museum of Contemporary Art of Gibellina, following the latest agreements signed before Alberto Samonà, the Sicily Regional Councillor, which lay the foundations for new contamination projects and exchanges of experience between heritage and contemporary art.

The Italian section of **PaNingenesi** is curated by Lori Adragna. It is a participatory piece of Land Art based on the motif of the 'incuse square' shown on some archaic coins minted in the ancient city of Selinus.

This motif will emerge after the stubbles left in the wheat fields and bread made with the harvested wheat will have been partially burned. The practice of burning stubble helps to regenerate the fields and eliminate pathogens and weeds. Here it takes on a propitious value and, above all, during a pandemic period, a cathartic one, that of a palingenesis. The 'incuse square' recalls different sun symbols, refers to the cycles of life, and becomes here a talisman, a way to wish for rebirth and regeneration. In **PaNingenesi**, the symbols and signs have been conceived as gifts to the community, and they are set in motion by a collective ritual that puts together coins and bread whose values and meanings overlap. Participants will witness the preliminary burning of the stubbles in the field through a video projection at the 'Baglio Florio'. Then, they will all walk together, like in a parade to reach the valley called 'Gorgo Cottone', located between the acropolis and the Baglio, where the performance will be held. The audience will stand along the sides of the incuse square, which will be marked by ashes and burnt residues. The rite with the bread will take place here with two children as main protagonists, standing in the middle where the two axes meet. Participants will move around within the square and will receive a loaf of bread made with the harvested wheat and bearing the same symbol. The bread can be eaten during the ritual, shared, or kept to testify to the encounter. **PaNingenesi** is one of the artist's series of artistic projects centred on the theme of bread and its symbolic value. Like **Pan-Gea**, a work of art in augmented reality recently presented in the framework of the project Arkad, Manifesta 13, and the video installation **I Am Blooming** originated from the cooperation between Monumental Callao, Mana Contemporary, and the Sant'Elia Foundation of Palermo.

God is Burning is a live performance by the artist Mario Bajardi, curated by Floriana Spanò for the Italian section. It starts from the concept of rebirth, a topical concept due to the lockdown period and Covid 19 pandemic. It was anticipated by the project ONE VOICE with the Fugaz Foundation, Monumental Callao (Peru), and Mana Contemporary in Jersey City.

The performance by the artist Mario Bajardi will unfold in the enchanting setting of the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, a majestic place hinting at an ancient time when divinity, the sacred, and the profane existed side by side. The artist, a musician and a sound designer, will take on an unusual role to recreate an engaging atmosphere that recalls the cathartic rites of ancient peoples. The performance involves the use of Tìre, an archaic element with a strong magical and religious value. It was used during rural rituals as a propitiatory element for the harvest to be rich while ancient men and women used it to dominate nature and exorcise the unknown by lifting the darkness with light, and to dispel evil, by spreading the ashes produced by burning dry branches over their heads and bodies as a sign of purification. The artist, like a priest during traditional rituals, will perform a similar purification and regeneration rite by burning his violin. The energy originating from the combustion will be transformed into a positive and regenerated energy. The Tìre itself is the great regenerator, the Time of our aspirations burning our inner adversities, as a way to unify the visible and invisible world which transforms matter. As in a traditional ritual, the artist offers his own violin to the Gods of the Archaeological Park of Selinunte for free music. It will be donated to the place and to those who wish to continue listening to it and to themselves at the same time not only through the sound, but also through words in a world where we have stopped listening to ourselves individually and collectively. The Tìre represents the light moving away from darkness, which is reborn in each piece of wood and becomes young and lively again as in a perpetual rite of death and rebirth. The burnt violin returns to the soil in the form of ashes as if the wood, its very constituent element, could be reborn and transformed again into a tree. It is a life cycle, which, having been 'purified' from its internal and external obstacles, guides us towards knowing ourselves thanks to light. The public, at sunset, around 7:00 pm, will be welcomed to temple F, one of the most evocative spots in the Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa, and Pantelleria, to attend the live electronic music performance. It will last about 45 minutes and is part of the artist's last album called 'In silence,' released in February 2020. The performance will be accompanied by pieces written and produced by the artist, which are introspective and intimate, aimed at encouraging individuals to listen to each other in a generation always on the run that pays little attention to what others say and try to communicate.

INFO SHEET

Title : PaniNgenesì / God is burning

Artists : Gandolfo Gabriele David / Mario Bajardi

Type of event: Land Art and Contemporary Electronic Music Performances in the framework of cultural exchanges between Sicily and the USA.

Curators : Lori Adragna (Italian section) and Floriana Spanò (Italian section. Ysabel Pinyol (USA) 10 September 2021

Time of Performances : from 6:30 pm

Promoted by : Sicily Regional Department for Cultural Heritage and Sicilian Identity Archaeological Park of Selinunte, Cave di Cusa, and Pantelleria Sicilian Region Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Palermo
Monira Foundation (Jersey City) In cooperation with :
Fondazione 'Orestyadi',
'MAC Ludovico Corrao' Museum of Contemporary Art of Gibellina

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Opening hours of the Monumental Area of the Archaeological Park of Selinunte

From 9:00 am > 6:00 pm Ticket office closes at 5:00 pm

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