

ISTITUZIONE
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BEVILACQUA
LA MASA

The Flower of Mars

Alessandro Sciaraffa

Istituzione Fondazione
Bevilacqua La Masa

Sala del Camino,
Chiostro SS. Cosma e Damiano,
Giudecca 620, Venezia

18 April to 2 June 2024

Inauguration on
17 April at 6 p.m.

Opening hours
Wednesday to Sunday,
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Free entrance

Alessandro Sciaraffa's solo exhibition *The Flower of Mars* at the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation, in the Stanza del Camino, in the Cloister of SS Cosma and Damiano at the Giudecca, anticipates the opening of the Art Biennale and is a large and structured installation, built through multiple artistic languages that, within an original path, presents a radical and poetic message.

The Flower of Mars alludes to a polymorphous research that includes works, photomontages, notes, travels and documentation of experiences. It is a field of forces that feed technical experimentation and physical, bodily experience until reaching visions of nature as regeneration.

A colour filters natural light into the architectural space; landscapes on canvas make it tactile; sonorous sculptures on the same axis fill it with harmonics; a wave runs through it; a story accompanies the journey until a magical, glimmering image is formed in the dark.

Alessandro Sciaraffa, sophisticated inventor of sculptures and sound objects, produces visions. Just as waves generate pressure in water and produce effects on our bodies, his instruments, innervated with air, algorithms, natural and metallic, analogue and digital materiality, make us reflect on the complexity of the reality that surrounds us. Moreover, the artist, in a broader sense, through videos in the form of performance documents, witnesses journeys, actions, glances between the human and the natural, the terrestrial and the cosmic. All to orient us towards the seed of the possible flower that relocates the subject, understood no longer as a mere individual perceiving through the senses.

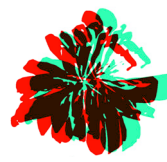
Indeed, the Flower of Mars could evoke the *Blaue Blume* of the German poet Novalis, which appears in a dream and in which desire and inspiration converge. Yet Sciaraffa's theme is not the romantic subject, but rather its overcoming, even with the body, in an installation in which the synaesthetic experience becomes profoundly participatory and transformative.

“If we consider ourselves as notes, we can recognise that we move within this melody by taking on different forms. A note is something special. It is in the present, contains its past, anticipates the future. If you extrapolate a note outside the melody, it is just a note. But if you place it within the melody it becomes something much greater”. (Alessandro Sciaraffa)

The Flower of Mars is the vision that materialises the earth's magnetic field, with its axes and the frequencies it produces. The resonance, to which Sciaraffa's work invites us, is with the planet we seek within ourselves, in the flower we can already be, which we can already make grow, in the Martian earth that we water. This is why we could be in the future right now, in the care of our imaginary landscape that makes the image of a planet closer than the moon. In this sense the agency, the romantic intention of the subject becomes animacy, reconnecting us to the original elements with a precious change.

“Works require us to refine our ability to be accomplices. Sound, after all, is life. It is the reorganisation of forms, the continuous transformation of the living, the set of possibilities that present themselves. (Alessandro Sciaraffa)

The exhibition is organised by the Bevilacqua La Masa Foundation in collaboration with Galleria Mazzoli (Berlin and Modena) and Galleria Giorgio Persano (Turin)



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Alessandro Sciaraffa Born in 1976 in Turin, where he lives and works. He graduated in architecture from the Politecnico in Turin and then studied at the Fondazione Spinola Banna, before graduating in the *Designing the exhibition* course at the Domus Academy of Milan. The winner of a number of national and international prizes, his main shows include: *Ti porto il mare*, Fondazione Merz, Turin (2011); *VITRINE*, GAM – Galleria Civica d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin (2012); Greater Torino, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2013); *I Lunatici parlano alla luna*, Galleria Giorgio Persano, Turin (2014); *Linked*, Musée océanographique, Monaco (2015); *Fontanella*, Galerie Italienne, Paris (2016); *Between a Dusk and a Dawn there is an Eclipse*, Galerie Mazzoli, Berlin (2017); *The Winter Symphony*, Hermitage, Saint Petersburg (2019); *Aurora*, Ground Moscow, Moscow (2019); *Aurora*, XXII edizione di Luci d’Artista, Turin (2019); *Sinfonia*, GAM Galleria Civica d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin (2021); *Sinfonia*, TSE Art Destination, Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan (2022); *Tracce/Huellas*, Italian Cultural Institute of Madrid (2022); *Meditazioni sonore per un paesaggio lagunare*, Festival Cinema Galleggiante, Venice (2022); *Emotion. L’arte contemporanea racconta le emozioni*, Chostro del Bramante, Rome (2023).

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