

# Bruna Esposito

## *Altri Venti – Ostro*

opening: Thursday 22 October 2020, from 12:00 to 21:00

closes: 31 March 2021

opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 16:00 to 20:00

**STUDIO STEFANIA MISCETTI**  
via delle Mantellate 14 - 00165 Rome  
tel / fax: +39 0668805880  
info@studiostefaniamicetti.com  
www.studiostefaniamicetti.com



**STUDIO STEFANIA MISCETTI** is proud to present *Altri Venti – Ostro* by Brunna Esposito. Three years after *Allegro non troppo* Esposito returns with an installation that is part of a new project yet rooted in her practice's longstanding engagement with environmental sustainability, which she has explored since the 1980s.

*Ostro* is the first of several variations on a theme designed to evoke the warm winds of the Mediterranean, such as the *libeccio*, *sirocco* and *gregale*. The installation consists of a gazebo made of natural materials such as bamboo and rope: the welcoming space is warmed by the breeze created by the blades of a solar-powered fan, and also features several ship propellers (a recurring motif in Esposito's work). Also on display are a number of souvenir hand fans, as well as several examples of low-tech domestic appliances that offer readily available solutions for anyone interested in pursuing a more conscious use of environmentally sustainable energy. The work is borne out of a synergy of various areas of research, bringing to life the artist's vision – and increasingly explicit conviction – that what are commonly termed consumer 'goods', such as air conditioning units, must be called into question.

The work is presented as a device aiming to reinvigorate the space, imbuing it with new, possible relationships, reflections and meanings. At a time when the subject of "meeting" is as topical as ever, the artist offers us a space to rest, a break that becomes an encounter. *Ostro* is a political and poetic exhortation: an invitation to take stock of the impact of our actions and consider the inevitability of other choices, as well as the power of simplicity; it is an ode to ancient, frugal alternatives.

*(...) the air has cooled itself with its own motion for millennia – let us hope that it continues to in the millennia to come.*

*Bruna Esposito, 2020*

A number of works by Bruna Esposito tackle the complex relationship between nature and society, the conscious desire to recycle and save energy, and natural resources. Notable examples include: *Two public biotoilets* (1987-1988), *Aureole* (1999), *Verso Sud* (2000), *Organic public toilets* (2003) and *Venti di rivolta o rivolta dei venti* (2009).

**BRUNA ESPOSITO** was born in Rome in 1960, where she lives and works. In 1979 she graduated from the IV Liceo Artistico in Rome, where she studied with Carmengloria Morales. In 1980 she attended the Faculty of Architecture at La Sapienza University, Rome, and later studied aerial dance in New York with Batya Zamir. In 1984 she was selected to take part in the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Studio Program. In the late 1980s she moved to West Berlin, where she was awarded two scholarships by IBA Berlin in 1987 and 1988, for the project and feasibility study for *Two public biotoilets*. She has worked with artists, poets and musicians including Paola d'Agnesse, Federico Fusi, David Hammons, Enzo De Leonibus, Stefano Maria Longobardi, Kristine Lovejoy, Progetto Neola, Annie Ratti, Andries van Rossem, Barbel Rothaar, Stalker-Osservatorio Nomade and Penelope Wehri. Her work draws on numerous material and sensorial elements, such as our sense of smell and hearing, and tends to be made using simple materials and techniques. Her practice includes drawing, photography and collage, as well as sculpture, video, installations, live performance, artistic actions and site-specific projects.

**Awards and recognition for her work:** In 1999 she was awarded a Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale, for the Italian Pavilion *dAPPERTutto*, created with other Italian female artists, as well as the *Italian Studio Program PS1 Award* in New York. In 2000 she was awarded the *Premio per la giovane arte italiana*, (the Young Italian Artist Prize) by the Centro nazionale per le Arti Contemporanee (National Centre for Contemporary Art) in Rome. In 2011 she was shortlisted for the Italian Chamber of Deputies Award for the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy at the Palazzo Montecitorio in Rome.

**International biennials include:** *XIII Havana Biennial*, Cuba (2019); *XIII International Biennial of Cuenca*, Ecuador (2016); *Prospect 1*, New Orleans, USA (2008); *Rome Quadriennale* (1996 - 2008); Gwangju Biennial, South Korea (2004); Istanbul Biennial (2003); Venice Biennale (1999 - 2005); *Sonsbeek9* in Arnhem, the Netherlands (2001); and Documenta X in Kassel (1997).

**Solo exhibitions:** *¿Qué puede el humo hacerle al hierro?*, MUNTREF, Buenos Aires (2020); *Perle Rare*, Fondazione San Fedele, Milan (2019); *inconveniente*, Fondazione Raccolta Cardinale Lercaro, Bologna (2018); *Allegro non troppo*, Studio Stefania Miscetti, Roma (2017); *Bruna Esposito. e così sia...*, MAXXI, Roma (2017); *davvero*, FL Gallery, Milan (2016); *inconveniente*, FL Gallery, Milan (2014); *Out of the Blue*, Olnick Spanu Art Program, Garrison, USA (2013); *Alla turca*, FL Gallery, Milan (2006); *Tulipano Nero*, Z33 Hasselt, Belgium (2004); *Passiflora*, Museolaboratorio Ex Manifattura Tabacchi, Città Sant'Angelo (2003); *Madre Patria*, Castel Sant'Elmo, Naples (2002); *Bruna Esposito*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea del Castello di Rivoli (2002).

**Selected group exhibitions:** *Classic Reloaded. Mediterranea*, Bardo National Museum, Tunis, Villa Audi Mosaic Museum, Beirut, and Villa des Arts in Rabat (2018-19); *Intuition*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (2017); *The Raft. Art is (not) Lonely*, Mu.Zee, Ostend, Belgium (2017); *L'altro sguardo. Fotografe italiane 1965-2015*, Triennale di Milano, Milan (2016); *ArtClub#5, I Giovedì della Villa*, Académie de France at Rome, Villa Medici, Rome (2016); *Start up. Quattro agenzie per la produzione del possibile*, Fondazione Baruchello, Rome (2016); *Lallazioni. Bruna Esposito e Annie Ratti*, Auditorium Parco della musica, Rome (2015); *Au rendez-vous des amis*, Fondazione Palazzo Albizzini Collezione Burri, Città di Castello (2015).

The artist would particularly like to thank Laura Pane.

Thanks to Sauro Radicchi, Gheorghita Prodan, Irinel Ghiunghius, Veronica He and Francesca Ziroli Aprile for their collaboration.

Thanks also to Lorenz Kloska, Rita Biasco, Massimo Guardigli and Carlo Alberto Belli for their friendly support.

The exhibition will see the publication of a monograph on *Altri Venti - Ostro*, including writing by the artist, Benedetta Casini, Arkfactory.