

Milano 03.10.2023

**FONDAZIONE ELPIS PRESENTS  
'STELLE CHE SORREGGONO ALTRE STELLE', SOLO SHOW BY LUCIA CANTÒ**

**CURATED BY GIOVANNI PAOLIN E SARA MAGGIONI**

**5 OCTOBER 2023 – 4 FEBRUARY 2024**

**FONDAZIONE ELPIS  
VIA LAMARMORA 26, MILANO**

Fondazione Elpis presents from 5 October 2023 to 4 February 2024 the exhibition *Stelle che sorreggono altre stelle* (Stars holding up other stars) by Lucia Cantò, curated by Giovanni Paolin and Sara Maggioni.

The exhibition takes its lead from the close relationship between the artist and the curators born on the occasion of the third edition of *Una Boccata d'Arte* (2022) - a contemporary art project spread throughout Italy - which saw Lucia Cantò as the protagonist of the intervention *Restrizione emotiva* (Emotional Restriction) in the village of Malamocco, in the province of Venice.

Presenting different evolutions of Lucia Cantò's (Pescara, Italy, 1995) research lines, *Stelle che sorreggono altre stelle* focuses in particular on two aspects that characterise the artist's most recent production: the vase as a significant presence in a space and the possible forms of collaboration with a temporary community. Two perspectives that, explored in their embryonic phase on the occasion of *Restrizione Emotiva*, are now deepened and put into relation by presenting a series of new works and amplifying the phases of participation in the artist's work.

As curators Giovanni Paolin and Sara Maggioni state "*Stelle che sorreggono altre stelle (Stars supporting other stars) wishes to get closer to people and become interwoven with relationships, welcoming the viewer and mimicking a living process, thanks to its own internal rhythm and the presence of an active workshop, aimed at stimulating a transformation in its participants. Indeed, the very circularity expressed by the words of the title recalls a constantly-renewed process of respiration that marks the passage of time.*"

Flanking the exhibition is a workshop programme, started through an open call and began in September 2023, in which a group of participants, regardless of age, gender or profession, is asked to create a self-portrait in the form of a terracotta vase. An experience that also finds space during the first period of the exhibition, with the creation on the upper floor of the Fondazione of a working environment in which opportunities for poetic reflection, practical workshops and moments of process sharing are interwoven.

At the end of the workshop, the first floor will be transformed from a working space into a space dedicated to the exhibition of the collectively produced vases. To reflect this change, the structures in the room have been designed through

a dialogue between the artist and Studio GISTO. This has resulted in a series of modules conceived for continuous transformation, possible through different ways of assembly, to facilitate processes, outcomes and at the same time shape a collective workspace.

The ground floor of the Fondazione is on the other hand dedicated to three new productions that introduce the artist's vision, while also providing keys to the interpretation of the workshop. *Madre* (2023), *Edilizia di un pensiero* (2023) and *Stellario* (2023) are visible at the same time, managing to coexist while still remaining autonomous. Embracing forms that are dear to Cantò, all the works reason according to sharp contrasts and symbolic corporeity.

*Madre* (2023) is a terracotta sculpture comprising three units assembled to form a balanced whole, in which one element houses and at the same time conceals the junction of two others. Since ancient times, pottery production revolved around female communities and was aimed at the collective function of transforming and preserving food. This activity was inevitably linked to the female reproductive and transformative power. The sculptural body is a concretisation of a thought that stems from the collection of female voices, transcribed by the artist in notebooks during conversations with women close to her.

Composed of heterogeneous materials, the installation *Edilizia di un pensiero* (2023) confronts the visitor with strongly contrasting elements, whose dialogue conveys an idea of fragility. The scaffold edge protection structures, originally intended for creating a safe area and to deflect building materials falling from a construction site, have been overturned as regards their function, with their apertures housing a group of flowers facing outwards. The sculptural installation acts as a magnifying glass directed onto the inevitable drying process of the flowers, held and then allowed to fall over time, each following its own rhythm of life. This process helps the beholder to keep track of the different phases that give rise to *Stelle che sorreggono altre stelle*, as it shows temporary changes and transformations in its course.

Lastly, the sculpture *Stellario* (2023) takes its name from the object it is inspired by: a bronze crown with twelve stars, found by the artist during a stay in Naples. In the work presented, there is no hierarchy between the seven elements that compose it, but each of them collaborates with the others, supporting them and allowing itself to be supported. This work, which closes the exhibition on the ground floor and leads to the upper floor dedicated to the collective workshop, inspired the very title of the exhibition.

As indicated by the title, which refers to the delicacy of invisible cyclical relationships and the force generated by small constellations of points of light, *Stelle che sorreggono altre stelle* moves according to a rhythm marked by different life cycles, linked to the creation and life of the works themselves: a first moment in which the artist's works and some results of the workshop are presented is followed by a second moment in which part of the exhibition layout is modified, transforming the work space into a place for the finished self-portraits.

## **THE ARTIST**

Lucia Cantò was born in Pescara in 1995, where she lives and works. In 2021, she won the 14th Talent Prize, the international visual arts prize organised by Inside Art, with the work *Atti certi per corpi fragili*.

His work has been shown in solo exhibitions such as: *Restrizione Emotiva*, Una Boccata D'Arte, Malamocco, Venezia, curated by Giovanni Giacomo Paolin (2022); *Ai terzi*, Monitor Roma, text by Cecilia Canziani (2021). Group exhibition

include: *Panorama*, L'Aquila, curated by Cristiana Perrella (2023); *La sostanza agitata*, Palazzo Collicola, Galleria d'Arte Moderna G. Carandente, Spoleto, curated by Saverio Verini (2023); Premio Conai, Arte circolare, Museo MAXXI Roma, curated by Ludovico Pratesi e Marco Bassan (2022); *C.U.O.R.E. (Cryogenic Underground Observatory for Rare Events)*, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Palazzo Lucarini Contemporary, curated by Margherita Morgantini (2021); Straperetana 2020, Palazzo Maccafani, Pereto, curated by Saverio Verini (2020).

## **THE CURATORS**

Giovanni Paolin (Dolo, 1989) is an independent curator based in Venice where he founded the independent space Panorama. Over the years he has come into contact with public and private institutions including Castello di Rivoli, Iksv Istanbul, Guestroom Maribor, MAXXI, Fondazione Elpis, Fondazione In Between Art Film, e gallerie come Galleria Continua e PACE Gallery. He is one of the winners of the 11th edition of the Italian Council call, is participating in the Curatorlab programme at Konstfack in Stockholm and is part of the curatorial team of Autostrada Biennale. His latest curated projects include *Immersione Libera* (2019), *Six steps forward for one step back* (2019), *A Breath of Art* (2020 - 2023) and *Fulgur* (2023).

Sara Maggioni (Bergamo, 2000) is involved in cultural accessibility in the field of contemporary art, developing her research by approaching different disciplines, including museum didactics, communication and curatorship. She has collaborated with the educational department of Fondazione Benetton (Treviso) and Fondazione Imago Mundi (Treviso), and as a cultural mediator with ACP Palazzo Franchetti (Venice) and Centro Studi e Documentazione della Cultura Armena (Venice). She was in charge of the educational workshops of *Restrizione Emotiva* (Lucia Cantò, 2022) on the occasion of Una Boccata d'Arte and since January 2023 has been collaborating with the cultural association Microclima (Venice) for the projects Cinema Galleggiante and Isola di Sant'Andrea.

## **FONDAZIONE ELPIS**

Founded in 2020 by Marina Nissim, entrepreneur and collector, the core of Fondazione Elpis' mission is the support of young artists. The Fondazione pursues its objectives through the production of exhibitions, residencies, educational activities and projects all over the country. With the aim of involving different audiences and exploring geographical areas outside traditional art circuits, Fondazione Elpis unites worlds that are only apparently distant by intercepting the evolution of expressive languages. The decision to open a new headquarters in Milan – in October 2022 – stems from the projects and collaborations activated in recent years on a national scale. The Fondazione has thus consolidated an ever-widening network, implementing new models of participation and cultural fruition. One example is Una Boccata d'Arte, the contemporary art project that has reached its fourth edition in 2023, organised in collaboration with Galleria Continua and with the participation of Threes. A nationwide project that involves 20 artists each year in the creation of site-specific installations that can be visited for the entire summer in 20 Italian villages, one for each region.

## **INFORMATIONS**

### *Stelle che sorreggono altre stelle*

Solo show by Lucia Cantò

Curated by **Giovanni Paolin e Sara Maggioni**

From 5 October 2023 to 4 February 2024

Opening hours: from Thursday to Sunday, h 12-19

Free entry

### **Fondazione Elpis**

Via Lamarmora 26, Milano

[www.fondazioneelpis.org](http://www.fondazioneelpis.org)

Contacts: +39 02 8974 5372 | [info@fondazioneelpis.org](mailto:info@fondazioneelpis.org)

Social: IG: [@fondazioneelpis](https://www.instagram.com/fondazioneelpis) | FB: Fondazione Elpis | [#fondazioneelpis](https://www.facebook.com/fondazioneelpis)

How to get here : MM3 Crocetta; Tram line 16 (stop Via A. Lamarmora)

Accessibility: the Foundation's three floors are connected by a lift

## **FOR PRESS ENQUIRIES**

### **ddlArts**

viale Premuda 14, 20129 Milano

[ddlarts@ddlstudio.net](mailto:ddlarts@ddlstudio.net) | T +39 02 8905.2365 | [www.ddlstudio.net](http://www.ddlstudio.net)

Alessandra de Antonellis | E-mail: [alessandra.deantonellis@ddlstudio.net](mailto:alessandra.deantonellis@ddlstudio.net) | T +39 339 3637.388  
Ilaria Bolognesi | E-mail: [ilaria.bolognesi@ddlstudio.net](mailto:ilaria.bolognesi@ddlstudio.net) | T. +39 339 128 7840  
Flaminia Severini | E-mail: [flaminia.severini@ddlstudio.net](mailto:flaminia.severini@ddlstudio.net) | T +39 393 3343937