

## Press release

### Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea

## Around Myself

**Parisa Ghaderi, Claudia Maina , Sissa Micheli, Muriel Montini , Margarida Paiva**

Moods are an intrinsic characteristic of human beings: joy, sadness, anger, harmony, fear, passion, hallucination are all emotions that cannot be avoided and that often escape our control.

The exhibition offers an original journey through the intricate territories of the soul told by five artists of various nationalities who try to unveil the dark, enigmatic and authentic sides of the emotions that belong to the individual.

**Parisa Ghaderi** is a visual artist and filmmaker who earned her BA in Visual Communications from Art & Architecture University (Tehran, Iran) in 2006, and her MFA in Art and Design from the University of Michigan (USA) in 2014. She moved to the U.S. in 2009. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including South Asian Women Collective (Shirin Gallery, NY), the 6th International Media Arts Award (Queensland, Australia).

Her work ranges from graphic design and photography to installation and metal work. As an Iranian woman living in the US, she reflects her experience through her creative practice, and provokes serious questions around identity and women's issues.

Many of her works series are about moving from Iran to the United States and how her identity has changed. Through each series, she exposes aspects of her personal struggles by raising questions about them and trying to find some answers. In that sense, her work is a deep exploration of her internal conflicts. Even more, she is attempting to find closure in things she can't understand and digest in real life, such as loss of a loved one, or emotional distance.

So the artist about her work untitled **Take care**: "Distance is not just a matter of space, but also involves time. An immigrant experiences time differently, the time of haste, waiting and uncertainty. Using the Cinemagraph technique, where still photographs are combined with a minor and repeated movement, the degree of action here is subtle to accentuate the timelessness of the loss and ongoing psychological difficulties within an absence. In "Take Care", I explore how to show denial when a loss happen, and how to make an absence presence. This piece is inspired by a quote by Emily Dickinson "distance and death are the same, once you are gone, you are gone".

**Claudia Maina** is a Milano-based artist. She has studied Sculpture and Interactive and Performative Arts at Brera Academy of Fine Arts, with a final research paper on interconnections between sculpture and music. Her work enquire in the relation between the body and the environment.

The body is put in relation to the dimensions of space, time and sound in which it lives. Starting with concepts like repetition and habit, the research shifts on how they act within daily life, influencing the psyche and the way to inhabit the spacial environment. The daily physical relation is constantly confronted

with the emotional one, tied to the perception of our body. This generates a definition of the space constructed with a formal relation constantly shifting between equilibrium and obsession. She is interested in analysing how time is perceived and studies the body as a place of temporal memory, acting as a link between past and future.

The project of her work goes hand in hand with a theoretical reflection on sound as the fundamental element for the perception of the external world. She uses drawing, sculpture, installation and video.

***Bedbugs Castles*** are imaginary short-lived buildings, like houses of cards, where little bedbug-men have been placed. They are a metaphor of the impossibility for human relationships to be born, or a metaphor of a communicative aphasia inside its cold timeless suspension. Abstract architectures ready to fall down and then to rise again, like a never-ending game, show a choking lack of connection among the individuals. A chant ironically reminds you of that arduous meeting.

The research by **Sissa Micheli**, South Tyrolean artist and Viennese of adoption, oscillates between the still and the moving image, resulting in installations, videos and photographs.

**Sissa Micheli** masters the subtlety and the suggestiveness of story-telling. Hers are poetic etudes of elemental passion, everyday torments, intimate and rare moments of striking emotional intensity. Micheli's is a complex world of a strong cinematic quality where reality and fiction are accomplices in constructing a narrative structure of psychological drama. Sometimes autobiographical, sometimes based upon someone else's experience as reported in a newspaper, these narratives of uncomfortable intimacy are autonomous fragments of a life on the edge of a nervous breakdown, threatened by an often tragic, unexpected event, precarious in its unfolding as a series of traumas from childhood, through the formative years and maturity down to the perils of a soon to come old age.

In a gentle, hardly visible process of sublimation, Micheli iconises matrixes of basic human relationships, thus providing the viewer with a dictionary of "received emotions" that while universalised retain their sincerity and amazingly powerful authenticity. The artist presents a series of photographs entitled "***Yesterday's tomorrows***" in which the protagonists are a white suitcase, a flying lamp, a young woman in unusual situation—jumping and hanging, flying onto the bed and floating in the air, that reawaken the house from its dormancy. By this point, the beholder has long arrived in the midst of a fictional story that reveals itself as a world of memory of already seen images from film and television."

**Muriel Montini** studied cinema. She lives and works in Paris. Since 2000, she has made several films screened in several important international institutions (Musée du Jeu de Paume, Anthology Film Archives New York ...) and festivals (International Short Film Festival in Hamburg, FID de Marseille, Rencontres Paris-Berlin, European Media Art Osnabrueck Festival, ...). She will have a little retrospective this autumn in Zagreb at the Onetakefilmfestival .

Muriel Montini's work oscillates between fiction, documentary and experimental cinema. The artist considers all her films as fiction even if they do not fit into a narrative linearity. The story is what interests the artist the most . As a musician, she works on repetition, variations ... Until the minimalist note of "Alice", a video of 2009 whose realization is based on the idea of telling a story with a single word. In the fiction, she always leaves room for improvisation. In her videos she puts the viewer as much as possible in a state of sensory and reflective acumen: her videos, contrary to the perspective closure of the entertainment films, present a narrative structure open to the spectator's interpretation, it is up to him to make his cinema, projected in this imperfect recomposition of the world, he too, must work to reconstruct the universe that is proposed to him.

In 2007 ***Chambres (Ou Changrin)*** In a hotel room, a woman sleeps, smokes cigarettes and sometimes starts a dialogue. But there is no answer. In a hotel room ...

**Margarida Paiva** is a visual artist, originally from Portugal, living and working in Oslo.

In 2007, she completed her Master degree at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts, and has earlier studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Porto and Art Academy in Trondheim. Her work has been shown widely in exhibitions and international festivals, and she has received several art grants.

Her video works narrate discontinuous stories based on real events, which she deconstructs to reassemble the fragments in unexpected ways to create new plots.

Using cinematographic narrative techniques, her works relate intense portrayals of pensive emotions in which the characters become trapped inside their own mental state. These characters are used to lead the story into a subliminal, dark and fragmented world. Themes of death, trauma, isolation, and memory are reoccurring motifs in these films.

Her video ***Erase*** is an image - poem that touches on themes such as loss and displacement. It reflects on the notion of nonbelonging as one feels like a ghost when the difficulty of communicating with other arises.

## **Venue**

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari (Italy)

**Opening** Saturday October 13 , 2018 at 7.00 pm

**Period** October 13 – November 30, 2018

## **Opening hours**

Monday ,Tuesday and Wednesday only by appointment

From Thursday to Saturday 5.30 - 8.30 pm

**Info** 3348714094 – 392.5985840

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**https:**[://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea](https://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea)

**https:**[://www.instagram.com/muratcentoventidue\\_bari](https://www.instagram.com/muratcentoventidue_bari)

**Parisa Ghaderi** (b.1983, Tehran, Iran), is a visual artist and filmmaker who earned her BA in Visual Communications from Art & Architecture University (Tehran, Iran) in 2006, and her MFA in Art and Design from the University of Michigan (USA) in 2014. She moved to the U.S. in 2009. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including South Asian Women Collective (Shirin Gallery, NY), the 6th International Media Arts Award (Queensland, Australia), Experimento Bio, (Spain), A Woman house or a Roaming House (A.I.R. Gallery, NY), Fadjr International Visual Arts Festival (Tehran, Iran), and the Red bull House of Art (Detroit, MI). Her work is featured in The Huffington Post, The Brooklyn Rail, Video Focus

(France), Nineteen Sixty Nine (University of California, Berkeley), the Michigan Daily, Unite Women (online), and the Visual ARTBEAT Magazine (Austria). Ghaderi has made four short films: "Still", "Broken Glass", "The ones who loved me are gone", and "One way". Her short film "Still" has been screened at Women's Independent Film Festival, Santa Monica, California, The International Film Festival for Documentary, Short, and Comedy, Indonesia, and CINEWEST, Sydney, Australia. "Still" won the International Award of Merit Winners, from the International Film Festival for Documentary, Short, and Comedy, Indonesia. "Broken Glass" was screened at Lady's First International Film Festival, Cork city, Ireland. "The ones who loved me are gone" was the winner of The Berlin Flash Film Festival, Berlin, Germany, in 2017.

<http://www.pghaderi.com/>

**Claudia Maina** is a Milano-based artist. She was born in Arona (No) in 1976. In 2004 she graduated in Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Art in Milan, where she completed her master in Interactive and Performative Art in 2008. Solo shows and video festivals: *VEDUTE MULTIPLE (Multiple Views)*, in collaboration with EconomART di Amy – D Arte Spazio Gallery, Studio LOMBARDDCA, Milan; *PIUME E FINESTRE (Feathers & Windows)*, Galerie Territoires Partagés, Marseille; *La Trilogia Esistenziale\_ Omaggio a Michelangelo Antonioni (The existential Triloggy. A tribute to Michelangelo Antonioni)* GAS Gallery; *CORPI DOCILI, (Tamed Bodies)* Gestalt Gallery, Pietrasanta; *Claudia Maina* Nac cultural association Novara; *MM15\*2005 a+m* Bookstore, Milan. *IDENTITÀ E VIOLENZA (identity & Violence) – Dialoghi tra videoarte e sociologia (dialogue between Video art and sociology)*, Bergamo; *Oblíqua / Mostra Internacional de Videoarte & Cinema Experimental*, Appleton Square, Lisbon; *CÓDEC Festival\_ Festival/Muestra de Vídeo Y Creaciones Sonora*, México; *Videovision, Video Exhibition*, Galleria Nuvole, Palermo; *The Scientist\_ International Videoart Festival* in Ferrara; *Experimental Texture, BAC!2010: TIME 11.0* Edition of Barcelona Art Contemporary Festival; *From body to City. Five word for artist's videos*, Verona;

Group shows: *ARCHIVI APERTI IN CITTADELLA*. Cittadella degli Archivi, Milan; *Open the boxes 2*, Gagliardi Art System \_Torino; *Imbalance and Insecurity*, Amy-d Arte Spazio Gallery; *Contamination*, Museo Civico Polironiano San Benedetto Po (Mn); *Novara Art Prize* Palazzo Bellini, Oleggio (No); *Look At Festival*, Ex-Manifattura Tabacchi, Lucca; *External Memory*, Care/of in Milan.

Prize: Finalist *Premio Ora* ; Finalist *Premio Pasinetti \_Mario Cosua* video Art Prize; Selected in *Combat Prize*, Livorno. Finalist *Corto Dams Festival*, Montà (CN); Prize at *Opera Prima* Competition, Urbino.

In 2014 she participates at the residency curated by La Napoul Art Foundation, Mandelieu- La Napoule, France. <http://www.claudiamaina.it>

**Sissa Micheli** was born in 1975 in Brunico in Italy. From 2000 to 2002 she studied at the Schule für künstlerische Photographie in Vienna under the direction of Friedl Kubelka and completed her diploma studies between 2002 and 2007 at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts with Professor Franz Graf, Professor Gunther Damisch and Professor Matthias Herrmann, graduating with honours. Sissa Micheli was awarded several prizes and grants, including the Vienna Academy prize and the Premio Pagine Bianche d'Autore, Milan, in 2008, the London and Paris studio scholarship by the BKA in 2009 and 2013, and the Austrian state grant for artistic photography in 2015. In 2016 she was awarded the "Artist of the Year" prize by the South Tyrol Artists' Association and the HGV. Her work has been shown in numerous national and international individual and group exhibitions and is represented in public and private collections. Sissa Micheli lives and works in Vienna.

<http://www.sissamicheli.net/>

**Muriel Montini** lives in Paris where she currently works on different projects. She studied cinema in Paris VIII university. Since 2000, she has made several films that oscillate between fiction, documentary and experimental. They've been screened in different international institutions (Musée du Jeu de Paume Paris, Anthology Film Archives New York...) and festivals (Hamburg International Short Film Festival, FID de Marseille, Rencontres Paris–Berlin, European Media Art Festival Osnabrueck...)..In 2014, she won two prizes at Szczecin European film festival. Among her last exhibition: 2018-Dame of the Hour International Women's Day exhibition Bath (Angleterre);Paratissima Bologna Art Fair "Animali Notturmi" Bologne (Italie);Bienal Internacional de Video y Cine Contemporáneo Mexicali (Mexique);One-Off Moving Image Festival Valencia (Espagne);Exposition "Le trouble-fête" MPAA Broussais Paris (France);Artist as a digital archivist University of Oslo (Norvège) – Kamloops Art gallery (Canada) – Ideas Block LT Vilnius (Lituanie);Digital Graffiti Alys Beach (USA); OGA Videoart Exhibition Rome (Italie);FILE Media Art Electronic Language International Festival Exhibition Sao Paulo (Brésil);FONLAD Water Museum, Art Web Center Coimbra (Portugal);2017-International Short Silent Film Celebration Haïfa (Israël) ;11th International Cukurova Art Festival - Altin Oran Art Gallery Adana (Turquie);FUSE Ättiksfabriken Art Space Royal College of Music Stockholm (Suède);Contemporary Visions (curator Roberto Ronca) (Italie, Espagne, Bulgarie, Angleterre, République tchèque);Festival International de Creatividad, Innovación y Cultura Digital Espacio Center Canaries (Espagne).

**Margarida Paiva** was born in Coimbra, Portugal in 1975. In 2001 she moved to Norway and lives currently in Oslo. In 2007, she completed her Master degree at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts, and has earlier studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Porto and Art Academy in Trondheim. Among her solo shows: *Untitled Stories*, Lab.65 Contemporary Art Gallery, Porto, Portugal; *Every Story Is Imperfect*, Oslo Intercultural Museum, Norway; *Erase*, Muratcentoventidue Contemporary Art Gallery, Bari. Among her group shows and video festivals: *Migrating Stories*, Screen City Biennial, Stavanger, Norway; *Stereo. Not Mono*, F15 Contemporary Art Gallery, Moss, Norway; *Stories and Desires From Who Sleeps*, Camara Oscura Contemporary Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain; *Debaixo da Película*, Image Museum, Braga, Portugal; *KINO DER KUNST*, International Art Film Festival, Munich, Germany; The 30th Documentary Film and Video Festival, Kassel, Germany; *Videoformes*, XXIIe Intern. Video Art and Media Festival, Clermont-Ferrand , France; *COURTisane*, Short Film, Video and New Media Festival, Ghent; Belgium; European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Germany; *Under Surveillance*, Oeiras Image Festival, Lisbon, Portugal.

Her short film *Every Story Is Imperfect* (2012) has been awarded at FOKUS 2014, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen, Denmark.

<http://www.margaridapaiva.net>