



Una Boccata d'Arte
20 artisti 20 borghi 20 regioni

Milano, 10 June 2021

GRJB IN PIETRAGALLA

We're approaching the opening of the second edition of **Una Boccata d'Arte**, a contemporary art project **spread all over Italy**, in all of its regions that, from 26 June to 26 September 2021, promotes the meeting of **contemporary art** with the historical and artistic beauty of the **the most evocative villages in Italy**.

Una Boccata d'Arte is a project by **Fondazione Elpis**, in collaboration with **Galleria Continua**, and the participation of **Threes Productions**, that gives full creative freedom to the artist and allows the use of any artistic media, exploring various themes that dialogue in a convincing way with the villages.

The twenty villages, selected each year on the basis of: less than 5000 inhabitants; the presence of an active cultural scene; and a capacity for family- run artisanal, commercial and hospitality industries, welcome **twenty site specific artworks** created by emerging and established artists, all of whom have been invited by the Fondazione Elpis and Galleria Continua.

BASILICATA

Pietragalla is the village that will host the exhibition **Flag Semaphores 2020-21** by the artistic duo GRJB Gabriella Rhodeen & Jesse Bonnell.

The opening will be held on **Saturday 26 June at 8pm with the live performance at 9pm** at Piazzetta Mario Pagano, 85016 Pietragalla (PZ).

«*Flag Semaphores* is our response to a year of unending dissonance. Contained by collective suspension, this moment continually defined in real time as *Historic*, was in constant conflict with the total and sudden compression of our daily lives. The heightened state of stasis. It is an exploration of this sensation; at once disorienting and daily».

Gabriella Rhodeen & Jesse Bonnell for Una Boccata d'Arte 2021.

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Fondazione Elpis
un progetto di

GALLERIACONTINUA
in collaborazione con



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TEXT BY ALOISIA LEOPARDI

Flag Semaphores is a site-specific art installation that is presented in selected locations throughout the village of Pietragalla. Comprised of a sculpture, eighteen works on paper, three multimedia video works and a live performance, the project documents the outcomes of the past year through the stories found within rural communities of the Basilicata Region.

The main work consists of a jib sail with the words ***Abacadabra*** embroidered on it. *Abacadabra*, an ancient, widely known, magic formula, was originally engraved on precious stones, guaranteeing health and protection from diseases to its bearer. **Carlo Levi** describes the use of *Abacadabra* in Basilicata's rural villages in his memoir *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, one of GRJB's primary sources and inspirations. In the book, Levi recounts the experience of his own exile in Basilicata. Examining and reframing the text, GRJB found profound resonance between the author's own time and the period of pandemic and political upheavals in which we find ourselves today.

Looking at place as identity, GRJB have been conducting a series of interviews with the local residents of Pietragalla. Woven into the video works and performance these invite the public to remember the experiences of this past year, whilst establishing a dialogue with the traditions that the communities of this Region have preserved to this day.

THE ARTISTS

Made up of **Jesse Bonnell** (Neuchâtel, 1985) and **Gabriella Rhodeen** (New Haven, 1989), **GRJB** questions the relationship between man, community and the environment in which they live, through videos, films, drawings, sculptures and performances. In 2012, Bonnell won the MacDowell Fellowship and has since participated in several residencies such as Rotterdamse Schouwburg in the Netherlands. His work has been featured in numerous institutions, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, The Getty Villa and the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA. Rhodeen has performed at public venues such as Human Resources Los Angeles; REDCAT, Los Angeles; HERE Arts Center, New York; and Strasnoy Theater, Moscow, Russia. For more info: www.gabriellarhodeen.xyz and www.jessebonnell.org.



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THE VILLAGE

Pietragalla is a village in Basilicata with 3,992 residents in the province of Potenza, which is 23km away. The name probably derives from «Pietra Gialla» (yellow stone), in reference to the yellow tuff used to construct the local houses. It is mainly known for its **palmenti**, cellar-caves dug in the rock and still used today to preserve wine.

FONDAZIONE ELPIS

Established in 2020 by **Marina Nissim**, entrepreneur and contemporary art collector, has as its purpose the **valorization** and **promotion** of expressive forms of contemporary art and creativity, particularly with regard to education and social utility. Fondazione Elpis especially focuses on supporting **young and emerging artists**, from different countries and cultures, whose talent deserves a greater opportunity for visibility and support. The exhibition space, currently being renovated, will open to public in spring 2022, in the heart of Milano.

GALLERIA CONTINUA

Contemporary art gallery established in 1990 by **Mario Cristiani, Lorenzo Fiaschi and Maurizio Rigillo**, today to date it has seven locations around the world: in 1990 opens in **San Gimignano**, little Tuscan village; in 2004 in **Beijing**, in 798 district; in 2007 at **Les Moulins**, in the Parisian countryside; in 2015 in **La Habana**, Cuba; in 2020 in **Rome**, into The St. Regis Rome, and in **São Paulo**, Brazil. In January 2021 opens a new exhibition space in **Paris**, in Le Marais district.

THREES PRODUCTIONS

A curatorial team and creative agency based in Milano, concentrates its practice on projects that intersect sound, art and landscape. In the second edition of **Una Boccata d'Arte 2021**, Threes will curate the exhibitions by Camille Norment in Santa Gertrude, Francesco Cavaliere in Vallo di Nero and Polisonum in Gesualdo.



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GRJB Gabriella Rhodeen & Jesse Bonnell

Flag Semaphores 2020-21

from 26.06 to 26.09.2021

Opening 26.06 at 8pm

Live performance at 9pm

Piazzetta Mario Pagano, 85016 Pietragalla (PZ).

Flag Semaphores 2020-21, installation, fabric sail, carabiners, 8 x 4.5 m.
Piazzetta Mario Pagano, 85016 Pietragalla (PZ).

Flag Semaphores 2020-21, drawings on paper, 18 elements, ink and digital print on Arches paper, 19 x 14 cm each. House-Museum of Rural Life, Via Roma 11, 85016 Pietragalla (PZ).

Free access to outdoor installations except for the House-Museum of Rural Life. To book your visit:

Pro Loco of Pietragalla info@proloco-pietragalla.it

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Press

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Acknowledgments:

welcome Lucania, Un Dolce Pensiero and



Il Comune di
Pietragalla



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