

Dimora delle Balze (a 19th Century estate located in Val di Noto, Sicily), launches 8 albe, an event that aims to become a yearly appointment to spread the knowledge of contemporary art in the south of Italy and abroad. The first edition of the initiative will take place from June 29th to August 31st, 2023. Unfolding into an exhibition itinerary, a curated video programme, as well as a series of online and offline talks, 8 albe will explore three main themes related to the context that hosts Dimora delle Balze: nature, time and dreams. Each edition will be conceived in close collaboration with a curator / collective of curators, that will contribute with their own approach to the suggested themes.

Entrusted to Carolina Ciuti (contemporary art curator, specialising in artists' film and video, and director of the Spanish edition of the digital magazine *exibart*), the first edition of 8 albe will inaugurate on June 29th, 2023 with the title *Quattro Radici. Appunti su un'idea di parentela* [Four Roots. Notes On An Idea of Kinship]. Unfolding into an exhibition itinerary within the rooms' of the estate and into a video programme, it will explore the concepts of 'kinship' and 'coexistence' as well as the spatial and temporal relationships that are established among different species.

The title stems from the theory of the four elements by Empedocles of Agrigento, according to which nature cannot only be made by one constitutive element, but rather by four roots: water, air, earth, fire. In consonance with this theory, all changes that occur in nature are due to the mixing and separation of the four roots. In other words, both the animal, plant and mineral worlds are composed of a different aggregation of these elements. In an era characterised by climate change, remembering this common origin (or root) is key. As does taking responsibility for this universal kinship (to make kin, to say it with Donna Harawat).

To inaugurate on June 29th, the exhibition will present drawings, paintings and sculptures by Francesca Banchelli (Montevarchi, 1981); Nina Carini (Palermo, 1984); Anna Dot (Vic, 1991); Joana Escoval (Lisbon, 1982); Lara Fluxà (Palma, 1985); Ilare (Rome, 1994).

The video programme will, instead, take place every Thursday of the month of August, in the outdoor space of the estate, known as *Giardino d'Inverno* (Winter Garden). The programme will feature works by Anne Duk Hee Jordan (Korea, 1978) and Pauline Dautrelingne (Kortrijk, West-Vlaanderen, 1982); Cédric Eymenier (France, 1974); Maria Marvila (Barcelona, 1991); Rachel Rose (United States, 1986); Bárbara Sánchez Barroso (Lleida, 1987); Adriana Vila Guevara (Caracas, 1981); Pedro Torres (Brazil, 1982); as well as artists whose works are part of the collection of the Fondazione in Between Art Film (Rome) and the Jean-Conrad and Isabelle Lemaître Video Art Collection (Paris).

In a place of extraordinary charm and rich in history such as Dimora delle Balze, 8 albe will be an unmissable art event, where the most avant-garde contemporary art will be presented. It will provoke encounters and debates useful for an increasingly felt and necessary cultural exchange, capable of leaving its mark and of generating beauty and poetry.

**Dimora delle Balze** is a 19th century estate steeped in history, where time seems to have stopped. The property is located in eastern Sicily, in an extensive 27-hectare valley a few kilometres away from Palazzolo Acreide (recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002).

**Carolina Ciuti** (Pistoia, Italia, 1990) is a contemporary art curator who lives and works in Barcelona. Through writing, curating or research, her projects denote a deep interest in time in all its facets. Ciuti graduated in Art History from the University of Florence (2009-2012) and she holds a Master's degree in Contemporary Art from the Sotheby's Institute of Art in London (2013-2015). In addition to carrying out independent curatorial projects between Italy and Spain, since September 2021 she has been the Director of the digital art magazine *exibart.es*. Previously, and until December 2022, she held the position of Artistic Director of the video art festival LOOP Barcelona, where she started working as a curator in 2015. She has curated exhibitions, performance overviews and screenings for international institutions and events, including: *Fundació Antoni Tàpies* (Barcelona), *Westbund Art & Design* (Shanghai); *Filmoteca de Catalunya*, *Fabra i Coats-Centre d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona*, *MACBA-Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona*, *Real Círculo Artístico* (Barcelona); *FIAC* (Paris). She edited the publications *Before the Name: A Book on an Itinerant Performance Project* (RAM Editions, 2018) and *I Have A Friend Who Knows Someone Who Bought a Video, Once* (Mousse Publishing, 2016). She was the co-founding member of the art collective *CRiB*, with which she created hybrid projects embracing visual arts, theatre and performance.



**The Fondazione In Between Art Film** was founded in Rome in October 2019 with the mission to promote moving images and support international artists, institutions and research centres that explore the dialogue between different disciplines and the boundaries between film, video, performance and installation. Under the leadership of its founder and president, Beatrice Bulgari, it aims at contributing to the international artistic debate by promoting the role of moving images in our time. The foundation continues to expand the work of the production company In Between Art Film, which from 2012 to 2019 has financed productions in video and film by leading international artists and directors, such as Vanessa Beecroft, Pierre Bismuth, William Kentridge, Diego Marcon, Shirin Neshat and Orhan Pamuk; as well as Angela Ricci Lucchi/Yervant Gianikian for documenta 14; Adelita Husni-Bey and Anna Franceschini for the Italian pavilions of the Biennale Arte in 2017 and 2019, respectively; and Yuri Ancarani, Jordi Colomer and Masbedo for Manifesta 12 in Palermo. It has also supported the programmes of events and institutions such as Museo MAXXI, Rome; Tate, London; Manifesta 12, Palermo; miart-international modern and contemporary art fair, Milan; Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève; Centro Pecci, Prato; Lo schermo dell'arte-Festival di cinema e arte contemporanea, Florence; Rencontres Internationales, Paris; GAMeC, Bergamo; Dhaka Art Summit and LOOP Barcelona.

**The Video Art Collection of Jean-Conrad and Isabelle Lemaître** stems from the couple's shared passion for moving images. In the 1970s the couple mainly collected engravings, while at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s they also began to acquire paintings and photographs. In 1996, a number of video art works became part of the collection and have since become the hallmark of the collection - named among the best collections of New Media Art by The Larry's List. Works from the collection have been exhibited at La Maison Rouge/Fondation Antoine de Galbert (Paris), FRAC PACA (Marseille), Tabakalera (San Sebastián), Kunsthalle Kiel, The Art Centre of the University of California (San Diego), Fundación Telefónica (Lima), Fundación Godia (Barcelona), El Laboral (Gijón), among others.

### **8 Albe**

A project by: Dimora Delle Balze

First edition curated by: Carolina Ciuti

Venue: Dimora delle Balze, Noto (Sicily)

Exhibition: 29 June - 29 August 2023

Video programme: 3 August - 31 August 2023

Free access by appointment ([press@8albe.com](mailto:press@8albe.com); [press@dimoradellebalze.com](mailto:press@dimoradellebalze.com))

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