



8 albe

Between The Ripples: Reflections of an Oceanic History

Video Art Program | Second Edition

Curated by Carolina Ciuti

Dimora delle Balze, Noto - August 1 · 8 · 22 · 29, 2024

The second edition of the contemporary art review, 8 albe, initiated by Dimora delle Balze, will be held in Noto from August 1st to 29th, with the title *Between The Ripples: Reflections of an Oceanic History*. For this year's edition, international artists will explore the theme of water and the ocean, through different approaches to film and video, ranging from documentary to fiction. The video art program will feature four evenings of screenings on August 1, 8, 22, and 29. The series will culminate on August 29 with a grand closing event, featuring a special screening and a live performance.

Dimora delle Balze presents the second edition of 8 albe, titled *Between The Ripples: Reflections of an Oceanic History*. The event will take place at the magnificent 19th-century mansion on the outskirts of Noto, Sicily, from August 1st to 29th, with screenings on four Thursdays of the month (1, 8, 22, 29). Conceived in 2023, this art review aims to promote contemporary art in Southern Italy, enhancing the transversality and interdisciplinarity of artistic languages. Curated for the second consecutive year by **Carolina Ciuti**, an expert in artists' film and video and director of the Spanish edition of the digital magazine exhibart, the event aims to solidify 8 albe as a central appointment in Italian contemporary art agenda. The goal is to integrate the project into the fabric of society, and eventually expand it beyond the mansion in future editions.

Focused on video production with the evocative title *Between The Ripples: Reflections of an Oceanic History*, 8 albe will centre around the theme of water and the oceans. The programme will feature works by internationally renowned artists, such as: **Daniel G. Andújar** (Almoradí, 1966) with the work *El juguete de los hados*, 2022 [*The Toy of Fate*]; **Camila Beltrán** (Colombia) with *Pacífico Oscuro*, 2020; **Johanna Billing** (Jönköping, Sweden, 1973) with *This Is How We Walk on the Moon*, 2007; **Julian Charrière** (Morges, 1987) with his work *Iroojrilik*, 2016; **Basim Magdy** (Assiut, 1977) with *No Shooting Stars*, 2016, and *The Everyday Ritual of Solitude Hatching Monkeys*, 2014; **Regina de Miguel** (Malaga, 1977) with *Intoxicated waters, never-seen-before comets and a meeting of suicides*, 2021; **Enrique Ramírez**, *Lauso la mare e tente'n terro*, 2014, and *Cruzar un muro*, 2015; **Himali Singh Soin** with the collaboration of **David Soin Tappeser**, *Subcontinentment*, 2020; **Aimée Zito Lema** (Amsterdam, 1982) with *The Sea as Common Ground (From a Wave Point of View)*, 2022.

Closing the festival on Thursday, August 29, will be Spanish artist **Fito Conesa** (Cartagena, 1980) with the screening and performance of "Anoxia, un preludeo constante." This 15-minute film, produced by Conesa in 2023 with support from the Departament de Cultura of the Generalitat de Catalunya, explores life below sea level. Following the screening, Conesa will perform alongside opera singer **Claudia Schneider** (Roses), an associate of Carles Santos' company.

The works of these artists approach the theme of water and oceans from poetic, natural, and geopolitical perspectives, highlighting the critical importance of water as a resource that shapes government decisions and influences population movements.

"The ocean is not just a mass of water that covers much of our planet," notes the curator. "It is a symbol of immensity and mystery, embodying nature's power for regeneration and destruction. Culturally, the ocean has inspired myths, legends, and narratives, serving as a metaphor for the unknown and the infinite. By exploring its representations in art and literature, we see contrasting visions: on one hand, a place of peace and reflection; on the other, a scene of danger and adventure. The ocean, thus, represents a complex entity, a vast abyss that defies simple definitions. In continuity with the previous edition of 8 albe, this program aims to explore the ocean as a natural element, a cultural device, and a stage for infinite exchanges."

Through art, Dimora delle Balze opens the doors of this beautiful estate nestled in the Sicilian Mediterranean bush. "Nature is at the center of our lives, our activities, and all our projects," the organizers emphasize. "With each year's theme for 8 albe, we aim to deepen the artistic investigation of nature, now focusing on the narrative of water and oceans. Plastic contamination, for instance, is an urgent issue that we must address and halt at all costs. The creative gesture has a powerful capacity for denunciation, which can significantly contribute to this cause."

Despite its vastness and importance, the ocean remains one of the least explored environments on the planet. Currently, only an estimate 5 percent of the seafloor has been accurately mapped and studied. This uncharted seafloor is a treasure trove of biodiversity and holds invaluable natural resources, but it is also vulnerable to human activities and climate change. Through a chorus of voices and artistic languages that combine documentary, essay, and fiction, 8 albe unites several possible ocean stories, inviting viewers to consider not only its beauty, but also its mystery and challenges. "The ocean is a vital element of our world," notes Carolina Ciuti, "a crossroads of cultures and a stage for human stories. Also, it is a crucial indicator of the health of our politics and our planet."

The 2024 edition of 8 albe also features a collaboration with **TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary**, contributing two works from its video collection. This partnership was pursued in light of the institution's dedication to studying and exploring the oceans. It aligns with TBA21-Academy's Ocean Space project in Venice, aimed at fostering a deeper connection with the ocean and other bodies of water through art, inspiring care and action.

Dimora delle Balze is an estate dating from the 1800s located in Noto, in eastern Sicily, on the Iblei plateau, in an extensive 27-hectare valley a few kilometers from Palazzolo Acreide, a town in the Val di Noto recognized in 2002 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The place where it stands is steeped in history: an ancient gateway leads to a garden with some remains of old architecture and benches placed under a pergola supported by restored classical columns, overlooking the valley and the Manghisi River. The unmistakable, radical Mediterraneanness of the surrounding landscapes—among lemon orchards, jasmine, Modican stones, cantilevered terraces, and an avenue of carob trees—is now shaped by the ideas, sensibility, and attachment to Sicilian tradition of the Lops family, the creators of an extraordinary conservative restoration project not only of the structure itself. In recent years, several acres of surrounding plundered land have been revitalized and brought to new splendor. Their credo is precise: shaping a revolutionary future through conscious choices to contribute to the entire planet.

Carolina Ciuti (Pistoia, 1990) is a contemporary art curator who has lived and worked in Barcelona since 2015. Ciuti holds a degree in Art History from the University of Florence (2009-2012) and an MA in Contemporary Art from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London (2013-2015). In addition to undertaking independent curatorial projects between Italy and Spain, she has been the Director of the digital magazine *exibart.es* since September 2021. Previously, she served as Artistic Director of the video art festival LOOP Barcelona, where she produced and curated exhibitions, video reviews, and performances by internationally renowned artists such as Regina De Miguel, Agnes Meyer-Brandis, Aleksandra Mir, Steina & Woody Vasulka, and Anton Vidokle. She has curated

exhibitions, performance cycles, and screenings for international institutions and events, including the the Fundació Suñol (Barcelona), 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, and FIAC (Paris). Ciuti also 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).

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Project by: **Dimora delle Balze**

Second edition

Curated by: **Carolina Ciuti**

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Venue: **Dimora delle Balze, Noto (Sicily)**

Address: **SS287, 96017 Noto SR**

Admission: **free by reservation** at press@8albe.com (seats are limited)

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