

La politica locale
Guglielmo Manenti
Opening: 12 August 2023

Laveronica Arte Contemporanea is proud to present the first solo gallery exhibition by **Guglielmo Manenti** (Scicli, 1976).

A few years ago, journalists and the media world became infatuated with a word used to quickly and sometimes hastily describe geopolitical relationships between global events and local dynamics: the term **glocal**. When Corrado Gugliotta of the Galleria Laveronica suggested *La politica locale* 'Local Politics' as the title of this solo exhibition, I immediately thought back to that ambiguous term.

The exhibition brings together materials created over the last two decades of my artistic-political production, in which I have tried to record, narrate and analyse many of the changes in the political and social life of Sicily. Drawing and talking about aspects concerning the US military bases on the island, the struggles of the **No Muos** and **No Sigonella movements**, but also the NATO Dynamic Manta exercises in Augusta and Trident Juncture near Trapani, or the upheavals of the areas colonized by international petrochemical firms has also meant dealing with issues whose implications transcend the Columns of Hercules of my homeland.

To do so, I adopted the working tools of my everyday life, related to drawing, storytelling and design in the various fields of communication: short animated videos, urban interventions with the *Ex collective*, daily cartoon GIFs, brief comic strip stories, illustrations narrating the many territorial battles unfolding across the island. But also images for posters, murals, theatrical silhouettes for processions and touring exhibitions, amid social centres and public debates.

I am an activist and I have always participated firsthand in the events I narrate, and many of my works originate directly from such events. I have been through both the exhilarating struggles of so many civil disobedience groups as well as those arising from endless trials, incarcerations, expulsion orders and moments of loss of heart. I have always recounted all this while trying to maintain an ironic and human, sometimes bitter edge, trying to highlight the many contradictions of power.

Over the years, all this has become a kind of intimate and at the same time public diary, which has found its way into various channels: from social networks to the press linked to the movements, from newspapers to fanzines, from leaflets to billboards.

This exhibition is a journey through time and space: a circumnavigation of the island through the common struggles in the main towns and even more so in the smaller ones, where grassroots initiatives fail to attract sufficient media attention. Labour exploitation in greenhouses, migrant shantytowns for seasonal workers, the burden of organised crime, the commitment of citizen groups to try and ensure primary goods and essential services; not to mention those areas living in the bubble of apparent prosperity deriving from the tourism industry, which cements over everything in sight. **A collection of political snapshots, postcards from the outskirts of the empire."** G.M.

The **Video-Azioni EX** are born from the collaboration between Guglielmo Manenti and Extempora. They are created by a collective of people who invites a spontaneous group of collaborators ('collabor_azionisti') who support the performance.

The Video-Action intends to involve artists and ordinary people in an attempt to create performances aimed at generating critical awareness in the public, called to confront the video-action which is always an environmental and/or social complaint.

Over time, the Video-Action has on the one hand become an URBAN BESTIARY, a collection of animals that denounces the degradation of the environment or argue with questionable initiatives or even highlight the widespread malpractice. On the other hand, URBAN FOSSILS because they draw attention to the abandonment of cultural assets or areas of the territory subject to speculation.

PENNE VARIE | PENA VARIA (2006, 7')

A 3m pigeon mysteriously appears on a roundabout in the center of Modica. Later a pigeon in human form with a black shirt is found on the road between Ragusa and Modica. The action is in polemical reference to a statue of the hierarch Pennavaria that the Municipality of Ragusa wanted to erect, despite the opposition of some citizens.

Collaborators: Giorgia, Sasha, Denis, Francesco

Photography and Shooting: Vincenzo Cascone, Carlo Natoli

Montage: Vincenzo Cascone, Carlo Natoli

KUPIRTUNA (2008, 4')

In a municipal area full of abandoned tires on the outskirts of Vittoria, the collaborators build an elephant out of tyres. In the meantime, MINO organizes a real tire cemetery and the TRACKS make plaster rims.

Interpreters: Giovanni, Giacomo, Giancarlo, Luca, Rossella, Sasha, Eleonora, Salvatore, Masso, Raffa, Rosa, Peppe L., Giorgio, Giacomo, Peppe C., Arturo, Giuseppe.

Photography and Shooting Claudio Zarba

Montage: Marcello Bocchieri

GIURASSICA (2007, 6')

The collaborators arrive at Punta Pisciotto to post the silhouette of a tyrannosaurus near the Fornace Penna, a fine example of industrial archaeology, an abandoned building at risk of extinction.

Collaborators: Andrea, Nico, Giovanni, Irene, Andrea, Marianna, Ursula, Walter, Alessandro, Cristina, John, Dario

Photography and Shooting Vincenzo Cascone

Montage: Vincenzo Cascone

PAR-CONDICIO (2010, 8')

As part of the city debate on the establishment of the Iblei National Park, the students of the G.B. Vico di Ragusa invade a shopping center to propose a survey and understand if people are for or against the Park.

External experts: Egle Gambino, Vincenzo Cascone

Collaborators: Milena, Mariagrazia, Francesca, Mascia, Fabiana, Arianna, Desirè, Adriana, Giulia, Stefania, Desiree, Roberta, Vanessa

Photography and Shooting: Vincenzo Cascone

Animation and Montage: Dario Guastella

Thanks to: Marcello Boccheri, Vincenzo Trischitta

MUOS EFFECTS (2012, 1')

The video is part of a series of animations on social issues created by Guglielmo Manenti in collaboration with Siculamente, Mania Creativa and Extempora.