



MY PURGATORY A Collective Action on Climate Change

Interviewed Artists : **Stefano Cagol, Peter de Cupere, Jitish Kallat, Marzia Migliora, Elena Mazzi e Sara Tirelli**

Projects by : **Paolo Cirio, Peter Lang, Cesar Meneghetti**

Curated by : **Elena Giulia Abbiatici e Valentina Gioia Levy**

July 23rd - 24th 2022

Opening July 22nd from 6PM to 8PM

GAD Giudecca Art District and "Lo Sguardo di Dante" curated by Peter Lang and promoted by the Central Institute for Catalog and Documentation (ICCD) are glad to present *MY PURGATORY A Collective Action for Climate Change* a workshop-event to discuss and propose actions that can raise awareness, and stimulate, and involve the public opinion and the art-world in a discussion about the current climate crisis.

The project was born after a series of virtual meetings that the curators Elena Giulia Abbiatici and Valentina Gioia Levy moderated in 2021 as a part of the "Dante's gaze" a project conceived and directed by Peter Lang, for the Central Institute for Catalog and Documentation (ICCD). Selected, as an official event, by the DANTE 2021 National Committee, established by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage for the celebration of the great Italian poet, 700 years after his death, Lo Sguardo di Dante aims to reinterpret some of the profound transformations that the world undergoes in the present era, through the "Dante's" methods of observation and transposition of the real into the fantastic. Lang, creator of the project, says: "The question posed here is not only what the Poet observed, but how the Poet continues to accompany us, how he guides us in his imagination and how we manage to include him in ours".

Abbiatici & Levy, entrusted by Lang with the curation of the section about the Purgatory, decided to interpret the concept of "atonement" from the point of view of the relationship between men and the environment, focusing on the concept of the cause and effect's law. Atmospheric, physical and astronomical phenomena, the relationship between man and nature are the leitmotifs of Dante's canticles. Confronting the section of Purgatory, the curators therefore replaced the religious notion of sin, with the secular concept of anthropic impact and that of divine punishment or expiation with that of natural catastrophe. Therefore, in the era of the anthropocene, humanist for different reasons than in the Dante era, man suffers calamities and environmental disasters as a consequence of his craving, pride, greed, lust ... Dante's gaze, transversal and omnipresent in culture western, allows the re-reading of some works by contemporary artists that seem to be linked to the Purgatory of the Comedy.

The interviews to the artists : Stefano Cagol, Peter de Cupere, Jitish Kallat, Marzia Migliora, Elena Mazzi and Sara Tirelli, are at the core of the workshop-event promoted by GAD Giudecca Art

District: *MY PURGATORY A Collective Action for Climate Change* on display in the spaces of CREA Cantieri del Contemporaneo.

My Purgatory is a collective action conceived by Peter Lang in which the public is asked to bring / leave a symbolic object or an artifact, anything that reminds us of today's world, but above all our personal and private "Purgatory". A flower? A letter? A box full of things? An object that symbolizes our responsibility as individuals as the climate crisis worsens? When Dante Alighieri imagined the Divine Comedy and the three canticles, Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso, he purposely brought together stories of real people he knew, familiar and common stories of his time, observations on the physical world, accurate descriptions of nature, the environment and the cosmos. The choice of language, the Italian vernacular, added a sense of naturalism and realism. We ask activists and visitors to think about what they would include in their Divine Comedy and "in their path of atonement" from climate change.

In the gallery it will also be possible to see: *Climate Human Plantif* by Paolo Cirio and K_LAB by Cesar Meneghetti. In Cirio's participatory work, visitors are invited to fill out a form created by the artist in which they can indicate whether they have been personally damaged by climate change and what compensation they expect from the injured party. The completed forms will be accompanied by a series of graphics selected by the artist that show some disturbing data relating to the problems caused by known multinationals.

K_lab, on the other hand, is a multidisciplinary project that began in 2007 in the Keita valley, in Niger, when as part of the PAFAGE mission (promoted by the CNR Institute of Biometeorology and the Georgofili Academy with funding from the Italian Cooperation), César Meneghetti, Enrico Blasi and Sam Cole have begun to collect video testimonies, photographs, noises, sounds, voices of the incessant work to combat desertification by the inhabitants of the region. The work therefore represents a message of hope for the recovery of a dramatic situation from an environmental point of view. In the GAD workshop event there will be some videos and testimonies of this project.

Interviewed artists and the works discussed :

Stefano Cagol *The time of the flood, (Beyond the myth through climate change), 2019*

Peter de Cupere, *Smoke Cloud*, 2013

Jitish Kallat, *Ellipsis*, 2018-2020

Marzia Migliora, *Paradossi dell'abbondanza*, 2020 and *Aqua Micans*, 2013

Elena Mazzi e Sara Tirelli, *A Fragmented World*, 2016

Projects by :

Paolo Cirio, *Climate Human Plantinfs*, workshop and installation in *progress*, 2021-22

Peter Lang, *My Purgatory*, participative work, 2022

Cesar Meneghetti, K_LAB – *interacting on the reality interface*, 2009 and *Inclusion/Exclusion* 2018-2019