

## REGGIA DI CASERTA

Caserta, via Douhet 2/A

### Marco Lodola – Giovanna Fra Tempus – Time

*curated by Luca Beatrice*

**14 June – 15 September 2018**

*press release, 14.06.2018*

The exhibition “Marco Lodola – Giovanna Fra. Tempus – Time”, curated by Luca Beatrice, on display at the Reggia di Caserta (Royal Palace of Caserta) from 14 June to 15 September, is a **union between past and present**.

The exhibition is organized by Mary Farina, who also devised it, and Augusto Ozzella, with the cooperation of Deodato Arte Gallery and with the patronage of the Council of Caserta, of the Madre – Donnaregina Foundation for contemporary arts -, and Confindustria Caserta (Confederation of industries).

The title of the exhibition is a reference to the *connection* between *Tempus* - the temporal dimension linked to antiquity, to what is classical, and the historical venue - and *Time* that, Marco Lodola and Giovanna Fra create through their works as a synthesis of contemporary world. Mauro Felicori, director of the Reggia of Caserta, says: “*The exhibition is part of the important history of the relation among the Reggia, contemporary art and the multi-coloured polyphony of its ways of expression, in a lasting and intense connection that constantly renewed itself during the years in a continuous and strong exchange, along ages and styles. This relationship always makes active and rich the life of such a significant exhibition space*”.

A selection of works by two artists makes up the **exhibition layout**. From the entrance to deep within the rooms and the royal park up to the apartments of the piano nobile. The immense park of the lavish villa, within a 1km radius, is dotted with more than twenty luminous monumental sculptures by **Marco Lodola**. They portray some of his typical subjects, men and women, dancers, animals, real and imaginary figures, who metaphorically take part in a royal ball. These works, as well as by the strong impact created by their majesty and bright colours, are characterized by their peculiarity: the light they radiate, that creates dynamism, power and vitality, all qualities that don't belong to the works themselves alone, but that also affect their surroundings.

Lodola's installations appear greatly in sync with **Giovanna Fra's** canvases. They welcome the visitors in the royal apartments and, characterized by a strong chromatism, perfectly embody that contemporary art where the fusion of techniques and experimentation are essential elements. The artist must confront the interior spaces and the Vanvitelli's architecture, reinterpreting the eighteenth-century decorative motifs, tapestry, wallpapers, baroque and neoclassical pieces of furniture, by using a way of expression based on sign, made up of unique traces of colour with unpredictable shapes and abstract textures intertwining with the intricacies of digital media. Her informal works are indeed rich in traditional elements. From photographs printed on canvas, Giovanna Fra completes her work through a backtracking process that leads her to finish it with traditional brush strokes. It is further proof of the link between *tempus* and *time*, specifically of the “passage from time to tempus”.

Even though they come from different creative processes, Marco Lodola and Giovanna Fra's works create a deep connection and complete one another, but most of all establish a strong link with their hosting place. As per Luca Beatrice's words in the text dedicated to the exhibition: *"Finding a connection with plasterworks, decorations, genre-paintings, and above all, a priceless architecture can be indeed a hard although captivating challenge for contemporary artists. Beginning from the use of odd materials that only recently became part of the art world, not to mention volumes and dimensions, and the immensity of a park that would intimidate anyone. [...] To create a visual short-circuit between tempus and time, i.e. past and present, is the risk that today's art feels able to take more and more frequently. Here, in particular, among painting, graphic design, sculpture and light"*.

A **catalogue** published by **Skira** accompanies the exhibition, with a wide collection of images, a text by the curator Luca Beatrice and several **notes** among which those by Renzo Arbore, Aldo Busi, Lorenzo "Jovanotti" Cherubini, Piero Chiambretti, Roberto D'Agostino, Salvatore Esposito, Ciro Ferrara, Antonio Stash Fiordispino, Enzo Iacchetti, Max Pezzali, Andrea Pezzi, and Red Ronnie, and famous **critics** such as Achille Bonito Oliva, Philippe Daverio, Gillo Dorfles, Martina Corgnati and Vittorio Sgarbi.

### Short biography

**Marco Lodola** was born in Dorno (Pavia). He attended the Academies of Fine Art of Florence and Milan. Later, at the beginning of the 1980s, he became interested in the new futurism. Soon he started to use plastic materials that he shaped and coloured by using a personal technique. The evolution of his research brought him to physically insert light in his works and the luminous sculptures were born. They will characterize all of his artistic production. His works are on display in many museums. In addition, he made sets for films, TV programmes, concerts and events. He has been particularly active in fashion and theatre. Among his numerous exhibitions, worth mentioning are his presence at the Italy Pavilion at the 53rd Biennale of Venice with a luminous installation and at the 54th Biennale of Venice with the project "Cà Lodola", curated by Vittorio Sgarbi.

**Giovanna Fra** was born in Pavia. She graduated in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera, with a thesis on John Cage and the relation between art and music.

Her creative vision has always given prominence to the physical dynamic of colour in relation to different consistencies of materials, securing moments of vibrant musicality in the immediacy of the gesture.

Recently, she has been invited to display at the 'Friendship project' in the Pavilion of the Republic of San Marino at the 57th Biennale of Venice.

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### Exhibition details

**Title** Marco Lodola – Giovanna Fra. Tempus – Time

**Curated by** Luca Beatrice

**Venue** Reggia di Caserta, via Douhet 2/A - 81100 Caserta

**Dates** 14 June - 15 September 2018

**Catalogue** Skira

**Opening Hours** Historical Apartments: daily 8:30am-7:30pm (last entrance at 7pm - exit from the museum at 7:25pm) - Park: 8:30am-7pm (last entrance at 6pm) – English Garden: 8:30am-6pm (last entrance at 5pm) – CLOSED ON TUESDAYS

**Entrance Fee** exhibition fee included in the ticket for the Royal Palace  
Historical Apartments, Park and English Garden €12.00 full - € 6.00 reduced  
Historical Apartments only (available when the park is closed): €9.00 full - €4.50 reduced  
Every first Sunday of the month free entrance to the Historical Apartments –  
Park of the Reggia €5.00 Full – €2.50 reduced - free entrance if under 18yr

**Extraordinary evening openings from 7:30pm to 10:30pm**

27 May - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 June - 4, 7, 14, 21 July - 10 August - 9, 15 September

**Entrance Fee €3.00**

**Info to the public**

[www.tempustime.com](http://www.tempustime.com) - [info@tempustime.com](mailto:info@tempustime.com)

Facebook/Instagram: Tempus Time

**Public relations Marco Lodola – Giovanna Fra**

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