

LIAF

Lofoten International Art Festival 2022 Preview exhibition in Venice:



Something Out of It

Artist Pauline Curnier Jardin at Casa di Reclusione Femminile (Women's Prison)
Artist Tomaso de Luca at Casa Venezia

Press Preview: April 18–24, 2022
Curated by Francesco Urbano Ragazzi

PRESS RELEASE:

LIAF—Lofoten International Art Festival is pleased to announce *Something Out of It*, a preview exhibition opening in conjunction with the 59th Venice Biennale. Curated by Italian duo **Francesco Urbano Ragazzi**, *Something Out of It* has been conceived as a precursory exploration of the curatorial themes set for the 30th anniversary of LIAF, temporarily uprooted from Lofoten Islands in the Arctic circle to the Venetian lagoon. The project will take place in two venues: the parlour and courtyard of a functioning women's prison, and a private palazzo.

LIAF's preview project in Venice aims to reflect on the production of biennial events, propose a new model for inclusion and sustainability and affirm a new alliance between art and reality.

Something Out of It is produced in collaboration with CASE CHIUSE by Paola Clerico, Zuecca Projects, Rio Terà dei Pensieri, DROME, Casablanca Studio. The project is supported by Kunsternes Hus, Centraal Museum Utrecht, EVA International, Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art and the Italian Council program (X Edition) promoted by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

Pauline Curnier Jardin
With Casa di Reclusione Femminile (Women's Prison)



On April 19, 2022 LIAF unveils a permanent communal installation by artist **Pauline Curnier Jardin** (Marseille, France 1980) **in collaboration with the inmates of the Casa di Reclusione Femminile della Giudecca, an Italian women's prison** located in the former monastery of the Convertite where around 60 inmates now live. This project is curated by Francesco Urbano Ragazzi.

A recent winner of the Preis der Nationalgalerie, Curnier Jardin will reimagine the prison parlour room that connects the women's prison to the outside world, transforming it into a ritualistic space for meaningful encounters.

Reversing institutional hierarchies, the inmates have briefed and commissioned Curnier Jardin. Together, through a series of collaborative workshops and drawing sessions with the Rio Terà dei Pensieri social cooperative and the Venice-based artist collective Casablanca studio, Curnier Jardin and the group of female inmates have reshaped the parlour of the penitentiary, using projections, furniture and wall paintings. A new film by the artist—developed through the collaboration and collective script writing with inmates—will also be presented, co-produced by the Centraal Museum Utrecht.

This new project from Curnier Jardin reveals the hidden history of the monastery from the 16th to the 19th century. Recent research shows that the parlour of the religious institution was used as a stage by the nuns who occasionally performed for family and Venetian authorities. Such carnival-like performances allowed the nuns to transform, wear profane clothes and suspend the social rules that forced the women into a monastic life.

By overturning both the spectacular and exclusive logic of large-scale art events, and above all the isolation that has afflicted life in prisons during the pandemic, the work will be intended for the privileged use of the inhabitants of the detention community. The technical equipment, the objects and the signs that constitute it will be donated to the institution, so that the parlour can be used, on a permanent basis, as a hybrid space of reception.

Location: Casa di Reclusione Femminile (women's prison)
Giudecca, 712, 30133. Venezia, Italy.

April 19, 2022, from 5–7:30pm. Further access: April 20–22, 10–12am.

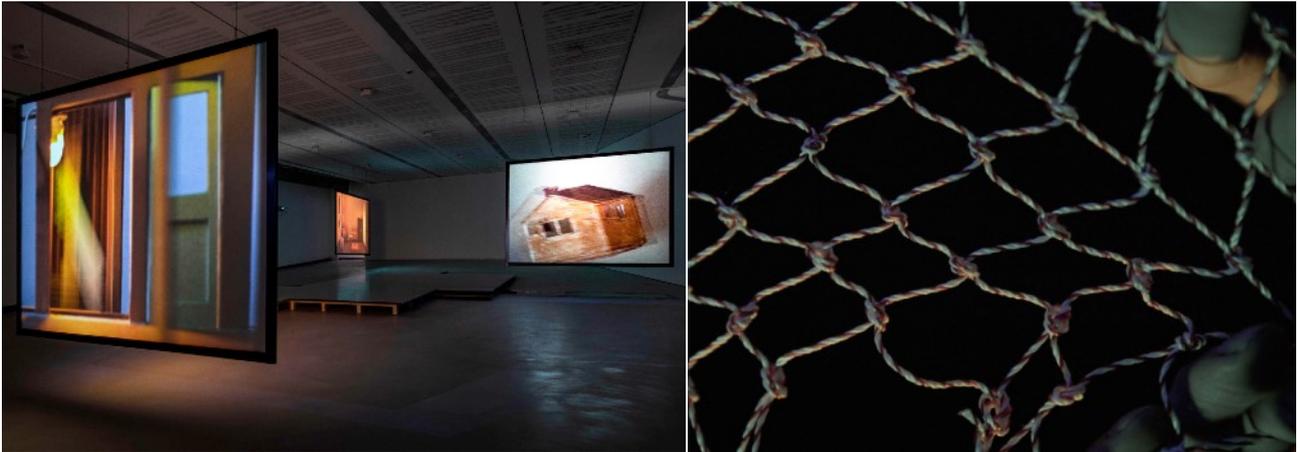
Mandatory registration: LIAF@margaretlondon.com

Selected audiences will have access to the project on exclusive previews.

The first audience of journalists and art professionals will be invited to enter the Casa di Reclusione della Giudecca on 19 April 2022 from 5:00pm to 7:30 pm, to participate in an extraordinary reception with Curnier Jardin and the female inmates. During the reception a DJ-set will be curated by Kunstneres Hus (Oslo).

Accreditation is mandatory, so please [RSVP](mailto:LIAF@margaretlondon.com) here for more details: LIAF@margaretlondon.com

Tomaso De Luca



Something Out of It, the LIAF 2022 preview programme in Venice curated by Francesco Urbano Ragazzi, continues in the Castello district by breaking into a domestic environment. The courtyard of Casa Venezia, residence of the collectors Massimo Adario and Dimitri Borri, hosts a new video installation by **Tomaso De Luca** (Verona, Italy 1988). This has been produced in partnership with CASE CHIUSE by Paola Clerico.

Winner of the 2021 MAXXI Bvlgari Prize, De Luca continues his investigation into the crisis of modernism—as the promise of a functional life for all—and processes of gentrification, linked to socio-natural phenomena, such as the AIDS epidemic or the most recent climate change.

Consisting of sculptures, photography and a video, the installation debunks the myth of comfort, transforming the house into a treacherous place. Furniture and everyday items are transformed into potentially lethal traps—the activation of such traps being shown through a visual grammar that is both threatening and comical.

De Luca's project is inspired by a news story. In February 2019 in Philadelphia, a real estate developer escaped a guillotine device, hidden in one of his properties and designed to kill him.

The artist links this news event to the consequences of climatic gentrification that is sweeping the American city. The violent act is read as an extreme and desperate attempt to resist increasingly brutal economic dynamics.

Location: Casa Venezia, Calle Seconda dei Orbi, 5201 Castello, Venezia.

April 18–24, 2022, 10am–6pm

Press reception: April 20–22, 9–11am

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For press inquiries please contact: Grace Gabriele-Tighe or Sofia Desbois:
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Notes to Editors:

Practical Information

Pauline Curnier Jardin

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About Lofoten International Art Festival:

LIAF is a biennial festival for contemporary art - the longest running event of its kind in Scandinavia - taking place in Lofoten, a cluster of islands located on the Northern Coast of Norway, just above the Arctic Circle. Since 1999, LIAF has presented works by international artists in a local and site-specific context. LIAF acknowledges the complexity of place and seeks to be a discursive, engaged and social platform for different positions creating dialogue between the local and global. Since 2009, the festival has been run by the North Norwegian Art Center (NNKS) and LIAF's Artistic Advisory Board. LIAF and NNKS receive operational support from the Arts Council Norway, the counties of Finnmark, Troms and Nordland, and the municipality of Vågan. About the Lofoten Islands Lofoten is an archipelago and a traditional district in the county of Nordland, Norway. Though lying within the Arctic Circle, the archipelago experiences one of the world's largest elevated temperature anomalies relative to its high latitude. Lofoten is known for its distinctive scenery with mountains and peaks, open sea and sheltered bays, beaches and untouched lands.

About the Curators:

Francesco Urbano Ragazzi is an Italian curatorial duo founded in Paris in 2008. The team developed *The Internet Saga*, a research platform and cycle of exhibitions that started with a homonymous solo show by Jonas Mekas (2015), and culminated with the exhibition *Hillary: The Hillary Clinton Emails* by Kenneth Goldsmith (2019), both presented in unconventional contexts on the occasion of the Venice Biennale. Francesco Urbano Ragazzi has also curated projects and exhibitions for MMCA (Seoul), Iscp (New York), Centro Ricerca Castello di Rivoli (Turin), Centre d'Art Contemporain (Gêneve), La Loge (Brussels), La Casa Encendida (Madrid), Institut Français (Paris), Futura (Prague), Ruya Foundation (Baghdad), Emirates Foundation (Abu Dhabi), among others. Since 2017, the team is directing the archive of feminist artist Chiara Fumai; in this capacity they curated the first monograph of her work. In 2021 the duo co-edited *FUORI 1971-1974*, an anthology dedicated to the first gay liberation movement in Italy.

About the Artists:

Pauline Curnier Jardin (b. 1980, Marseille, France) is a Berlin-Rome based artist working across installation, performance, film, and drawing. She is the winner of the 2019 German *Preis der Nationalgalerie*, the 2021 *Villa Romana Prize* in Firenze, and recipient of the 2019-2020 *Villa Medici fellowship* in Rome. Her work was either included or commissioned over the last years in: Steirischer Herbst Festival, Graz; Manifesta 13, Marseille; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; the Bergen Assembly, Bergen Biennial; International Film Festival, Rotterdam; the 57th Venice Biennale; Tate Modern, London; and Performa 15, New York.

Tomaso De Luca (1988) is a visual artist who lives and works in Berlin. He employs drawing, sculpture, installation, and video practices to expose what is buried in collective imagery: his works stand as defections to the modernist canon, representing active survival strategies against isolation. De Luca's work has been exhibited in venues such as: Quadriennale di Roma (2020); Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2017); Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro (2015); Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2015); among others. He was among the finalists of the 9th *Furla Prize* in 2013, and was awarded the title of *Cy Twombly Fellow* at the American Academy in Rome, in 2017. In 2021, his work *A Week's Notice* won the second edition of the *MAXXI Bvlgari Prize*.