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PRESS RELEASE

Pontedera doesn't stop and Natale ad Arte 2022 edition begins!

Based on the idea that culture is the fundamental key of development for the growth of an area, bringing together the magic of Christmas and the vocation of a city that conceives culture on a broad spectrum, in a historic time yet complicated by events that are marking the lives of us all, the bet is to bring art back to the center to fully enjoy all its beauty.

"Natale ad Arte" edition 2022 opens to the public on Friday, Dec. 23, in Pontedera (PI).

The event, directed by Alberto Bartalini, is part of the project *Arte per non Dormire - Pontedera*, which has been distinguishing the Valdera artistic scenario for years now.

The event will be held until Easter 2023 and will accompany those who visit Pontedera on a special, exciting and full of suggestions journey.

The program of the event, promoted by the Municipality of Pontedera, Fondazione per la Cultura Pontedera, with the patronage of the Region of Tuscany, includes a wide path thanks also to the valuable collaboration of the main sponsor Galleria d'Arte Contini of Venice and Cortina, already an undisputed protagonist of the artistic scene in the area with the collaboration at the Andrea Bocelli's Teatro del Silenzio.

There are two installations to experience:

ENZO FIORE - "Appropriation" at *PALP Palazzo Pretorio - Curtatone and Montanara Square*.

It is from nature that artist Enzo Fiore draws to shape his creative flair: roots, moss, twigs, leaves, earth, stones and insects are the dominant and inescapable elements of his compositions. What at first glance may appear to be a material agglomeration of pigments reveals itself, under closer and more careful examination, to be a micro-world of organic details that tell of the natural world that surrounds us and on which we inevitably depend.

The artist's compositional idiom is endless, it has no beginning and no end condition, but rather a constant and persistent continuous cycle where man, matter, nature, life and death insist in a fatal attraction in which renunciation seems to have lost its balance.

Fiore's academic training does not betray in the *Appropriations* series: with extreme deference, the artist employs his earthy, organic palette to reinterpret paintings of the past, imbuing their iconic dimension with an extension of timeless fascination.

In this exhibition, directed by Alberto Bartalini, the original icon appropriated by the artist is flanked by a reproduction on "Digital Fresco," an innovative technique that uses images transferred on plaster on this occasion, produced by Giannoni&Santoni.

From the "Pieta" to Rembrandt's "Dr. Tulp's Anatomy Lesson," Enzo Fiore enacts a series of "appropriations" of artworks that have become icons of humanity, reinterpreting them and transposing them into contemporaneity, through the mystical-religious and death theme.

Caducity, in fact, is an "active part" of Enzo Fiore's entire artistic production, without everything would have no origin; however, he does not focus only on transience, but savors the taste of the imaginative by bringing back to life what seems to have ended its journey.

Organic matter is transformed and impeccably portrays the great masterpieces of classical art to reveal the awareness of contemporaneity that such artworks maintain in the stated truths necessary for Art as a representation of life.

The idea of matter as the cyclic vitality of the natural system, in which the energy of its continuous transformation into something else dominates, represents the expressive power of contemporary art, toward the constant tension and continuous search, for new materials, new expressions, new dialogues.

In his artwork subject and material merge, the canvases are tinged with earthy and enveloping tones, the essential and pungent colors outline faces of characters, belonging to the art world, from Frida Kahlo to Keith Haring. In his sculptures, on the other hand, the guiding line becomes the vegetal element such as the root that sinuously tames and shapes following the forms of the body that the artist wants to create, it innervates itself becoming almost anatomical expression.

"Artistry and eloquent sensitivity are undoubted peculiarities of the artist. We are confident that with this exhibition his artwork can successfully speak to the man of life and experience. The elegance and harmony of his works tell the story of his being, and it is therefore with extreme pride that we show our deep and sincere esteem and look forward to sharing and facing this exciting journey together." - Contini Art Gallery.

Using nature as his raw material, his art becomes emblematic of the continuous motion of existence, of the perennial dialectic between life and death, and will be on display at PALP - Palazzo Pretorio starting with public opening on December 23rd.

PARK EUN SUN - "Beyond Infinity" in widespread spaces in the historic center,

After the great success of the exhibition on the Viareggio seafront, *Bagno Alpemare* in Forte dei Marmi and the 2022 edition of *Teatro del Silenzio* in Lajatico, the link between the great Korean sculptor Park Eun Sun (represented by the Contini Art Gallery) and the Tuscan territory is renewed with an exhibition of the artist's monumental artwork, which will unfold in the historic center of Pontedera, directed by Alberto Bartalini.

The essence of life, stone and nature are the focus of this exhibition, which celebrates the great master's intimate poetics, skillful craftsmanship and contemporary, universal language. A key feature is the profoundly contemporary gestural quality that emerges from his creations, skillfully shaped and polished into perfect geometric forms and all united by a split; marble and granite are shaped and polished, then split, cracked, reassembled and "wounded."

And it is from this wound in the stone, a symbol of suffering and the very essence of experience, that allows the viewer to enter the sensitive and expressive sphere of the artist. The twisted columns and spherical forms of his "Infinite Columns" achieve refined balances by fusing in their essence the Eastern culture of origin and the Western culture of adoption of the artist; an exhibition that speaks to the collective and investigates the very essence of existence and man.

"We want to celebrate the undisputed artistic ability and refined poetics of Park Eun Sun, which we are sure will emotionally stimulate the general public. The understanding we have reached goes beyond the artist-gallery relationship to be rooted in the most intimate and human aspect of which his artwork is a mouthpiece, demonstrating the deep sensitivity and poetic will to establish a dialogue involving the collective."- Contini Art Gallery.

For Mayor Matteo Franconi, "In this difficult year marked by a war in the heart of Europe and the related energy crisis that led to the adoption of extraordinary measures aimed at curbing spending even in schools, the municipality of Pontedera did not want to pretend nothing and made a choice that is not only symbolic: to value the warmth of voices instead of the warmth of lights. That is why we decided to divert the available resources to give voice to the language of culture and the expressive capacity of art. We do this by putting people at the center of our Christmas, their desire to be together in the places and public spaces of aggregation, facilitating the contamination of suggestions and the beauty of emotions. We do this by continuing to "pave" with artistic quality of national and international significance the path of growth of this community."

Significant is the choice made on the Palp, as explained by Federico Nocchi, president of the Pontedera Foundation for Culture, "After the two "Pop" exhibitions, we thought of proposing to the affectionate audience of the Palp and the City of Pontedera an innovative exhibition characterized by living biological matter. The artworks by Enzo Fiore and Park Eun Sun we believe are relevant and appropriate to the high quality cultural offer that Palp, in agreement with the municipality, intends to cultivate in the city; we believe that this new initiative can arouse great interest and curiosity in the public.

"Last but not least," Franconi and Nocchi conclude, "we remember the extraordinary and invaluable help of sponsors and partners without whose support events of this magnitude would be neither imaginable nor possible. Finally, we express gratitude for the Contini Gallery for its valuable and fundamental collaboration."

The exhibition "**NO WAR**" by Paolo Staccioli, curated by Filippo Lotti for FuoriLuogo, will be presented at Palazzo Stefanelli on the occasion.

INFO:

PALP Palazzo Pretorio

Curtatone and Montanara Square – Pontedera

tel: 0587 468487 - cell: 331 1542017

website : www.palp-pontedera.it

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (last admission 6 p.m.);

Monday closing day;

HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL OPENINGS

December 24, 2022: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dec. 25, 2022: CLOSED

December 26, 2022: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

December 31, 2022: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

January 01, 2023: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

January 06, 2023: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

April 09, 2023: CLOSED

April 10, 2023: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

PRICES

full price: € 8.00

reduced (Coop members with card, accompanying disabled persons, over 70, students aged 10 to 18 or university students with card): € 6.00

reduced price children (6-10 years): € 3.00

family package: reduced € 6.00 per parent/parents/family member + children's ticket (6-10 years) € 3.00.

Reductions cannot be combined.

free: children under 6 years old, disabled, journalists with regular card of the National Order

adult group: € 6.00 per person (min. 10 max. 25 people) with complimentary group leader

school group: € 3.00 per student (from 6 years of age) with complimentary teacher

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Link photo gallery by Stefano Marinari:

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