



## Press Release

23.09.2020

### ***Pneuma***

Christian Fogarolli

Project supported by the Italian Council (6th Edition 2019) program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism

Löwenbräukunst Contemporary Art Center and schwarzescafé, Zurich

10 October - 11 November, 2020

Opening: 10 October, h. 14:00 - on the occasion of World Mental Health Day

Christian Fogarolli's *Pneuma* project questions the concept of mental health in contemporary society, also in the light of the current global health crisis, which has shown the urgency to address realities that seem to have been crystallized at this historical moment in time.

By exploring the immateriality and intangibility of mental illness, the artist's research leads to some topical questions: are we still able to initiate a process of de-stigmatisation and a reconsideration of mental illness? How to we de-construct the binary categorisation that distinguishes "deviance" from "normality"?

During research residences and collaborations in ten different countries, the artist came into contact with multiple European realities, in the realisation of a project made up of different immersive pieces, brought to fruition following the interaction with people in care, medical staff, doctors and researchers of various kinds.

In the specific case of Switzerland, the artist referred to "Ensa Mental Health First Aid", a first aid programme for mental health, launched in 2019 by the Swiss Pro Mente Sana Foundation and with the support of the Beisheim Foundation. The innovative idea is to train and empower people who are not in the sector, in order to help them recognise the appearance of mental problems in their surrounding environment. The aim is to provide them with initial support, to break taboos and open up a dialogue on the stigma that exists in our society towards mental illness.

The artist's third solo exhibition for this project takes shape in the large spaces of Löwenbräukust Contemporary Art Center. A large installation, consisting of glass sculptures and various materials, is linked to the film screened in the experimental setting of the schwarzescafé, in which workshops and performances alternate with meetings and talks on the theme of mental illness. Artists, art therapists and visitors, so-called neurotypical and non-neurotypical, will together reflect upon the importance of the relationship between art and mental illness, in the process of destigmatizing the latter.

The countries involved are Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, England, Romania and Czech Republic. Fogarolli has forged relationships with some of their major psychiatric institutions, developing a direct confrontation with those who live in these areas, putting into discussion the classification processes of mental distress and the consequent marginalisation of the individual.

Pneuma is a project which is presented through various exhibitions including those recently concluded at the STATE Studio in Berlin, La Fondazione di Roma, the MARE Museum in Bucharest and the exhibition in question, it will then continue onto MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna.

At the end of the exhibitions, a catalogue will be published including essays written by those from both the medical and artistic field. It will also include a series of unpublished images that will chronologically retrace the project's preliminary research on a geographical journey. A series of *pneumaevents*, laboratories, seminars, conferences and screenings will be hosted by international partner institutions: medical research centres, universities, academies, associations and centres for mental health treatments.

The final works will then become part of MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna's permanent collection.

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Christian Fogarolli is an Italian artist born in 1983. He obtained a Master's degree in study, diagnostics and restoration of modern and contemporary ancient paintings at the University of Verona in 2010 and obtained a specialist degree in conservation of cultural heritage at the University of Trento.

His research is underpinned by the relationship between art and scientific theories and disciplines and how the latter has unconsciously made use of creative means to lead to progress. His works attempt to question the hierarchical relationship between different species, the regulatory attributions of deviance and disease and the canonical methods of museum, scientific and archival categorisation. His practice stems from historical research into the contemporary world through different forms of expression, from environmental installation to photography, from sculpture to video.

The results of his research have been displayed in events such as dOCUMENTA (13) with the exclusive presentation of the research project Lost identities (2012); the Mart Museum of Rovereto (2013); The Maison Rouge in Paris (2014); Foundation Museum Miniscalchi Erizzo (2015); de Appel arts center of Amsterdam (2015); 5th Moscow International Biennale (2016); Hunterian Museum in Glasgow (2017); Gayt  Lyrique of Paris (2017); Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin (2017); Galleria Civica Mart, Trento (2014-18); Les Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles (2018); MAXXI, National Museum of the 21st Century Arts, Rome (2018); Hrdlicka Museum of Man, Prague (2018); Palazzo Fortuny Museum Venice (2018); Mus e de Grenoble (2019). He recently received research and residency awards at the College of Physicians and M tter Museum of Philadelphia and Futura center for contemporary art in Prague (2018). In 2019 he received the prestigious Italian Council award granted by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities.

#### *Pneuma*

by Christian Fogarolli

Project supported by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism under the Italian Council program (2019).

[www.fogarolli.eu](http://www.fogarolli.eu)

#### Exhibitions of the research project

STATE Studio, Berlin, March 20 - May 2, 2020

The Foundation, Rome, June 30 - July 06, 2020

MARe Museum of Recent Art, Bucharest, September 04 - September 25, 2020

Schwarzescafe at L wenbr ukunst, Zurich, October, 2020

MAMbo - Museum of Modern Art of Bologna, 2021

#### Promoting partners

TRA - Treviso Research Art, Treviso

CIMeC - Mind / Brain Interdepartmental Centre, Rovereto

#### Pneumaevents

Italian Institute of Culture, Tel Aviv

TRA - Treviso Research Art, Treviso

CIMeC - Mind / Brain Interdepartmental Center, Rovereto

Accademia di Belle Arti di Verona

Dipartimento delle Arti - Alma Mater Studiorum Universit  di Bologna

IED, European Institute of Design, Venice

#### Museum recipient of the work

MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, permanent collection

#### Internal collaborators

Giulia Busetti, freelance curator, Zurich

Giulia Colletti, Public Programs Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin

Sabrina Comin, Treviso Directorate for Art Research

Gabriele Lorenzoni, Curator, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Rovereto, Mart

## Graphics

Multiplo, Padua

## Pneuma Catalogue

The processing

## Thanks to

Galerie Alberta Pane, Paris / Venice

Galerie Mazzoli, Berlin / Modena / Düsseldorf

## Partners

TRA - Treviso Ricerca Arte, Treviso

CIMeC - Center for Mind/Brain Sciences, Rovereto

Italian Institute of Culture, Tel Aviv

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IED, European Institute of Design, Venice

STATE Studio, Berlin

MARe Museum of Recent Art, Bucharest

Schwarzescafé at Löwenbräukunst, Zürich

MAMbo - Museo di Arte Moderna, Bologna

AGI Verona Collection, Verona

Istituzione Gian Franco Minguzzi, Bologna

Free Space project, London

The Perspective Project, London

Jonas Onlus, Trento, Florence, Varese, Palermo, Genoa

Psicoradio (Arte e Salute Onlus) Bologna, Milan

Associazione Nuove Arti Terapie, Rome

Amabiotics, advance microbiome medicine, Paris

PsicoArt - Associazione di Psicologia dell'arte APS

Art & Mind, film production, London

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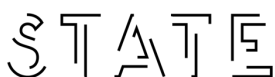
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