



THE BLANK CONTEMPORARY ART ARTDATE | SACRO/SAGRA

On Friday 26, Saturday 27, Sunday 28 May, Bergamo hosts the seventh edition of **The Blank ArtDate**. The festival has become during the years a reference point for contemporary art lovers and it has been recognized by the European platform *EFFE - Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe* for its artistic quality, the local community engagement and its European and international scope. **The Blank ArtDate reinvents itself proposing a completely original format** with more than forty events between exhibitions, conferences, special projects, educational workshops and extraordinary openings of major places in town.

The Blank ArtDate reflects on the theme of the **Holy**, reinterpreting rituals and gestures able to unite people in a common spirit. Taking as reference the ancient **sagre** - from the Latin *sacrum* - that were moments of communion between men and the holy, The Blank ArtDate asks numerous artists to reinterpret this fundamental subject through their contemporary artistic practice connecting tradition and modernity. The reflection on folk rituals is intertwined with the interpretation of the holy, considered as an experience inextricably linked to the effort made by humans in order to build a word endowed with meaning.

Friday 26 May

The inaugural conference of The Blank ArtDate is realized in collaboration with Museo Adriano Bernareggi in via Pignolo, 76 at 5 pm, and includes the intervention of the sociologist **Gian Antonio Gilli**, focused on the **ex voto** (objects offered in the shrines to thank the recipient of the vow when the prayer has been granted), of which the Museum owns a wide collection consisting mainly of ex voto painted and embossed.

At the Museo Bernareggi, at 6 pm, inaugurates the exhibition "Una donna vestita di sole" focused on the "dressed Madonnas", statues of the Virgin Mary dressed reproducing accurately the traditional robes of the women of the time, both peasants and noblewomen.

The dressed Madonnas are part of a ritual connected with people's devotion that spans centuries from the Middle Age to this day and regards a large part of the Catholic Europe.

After the success of the last edition, The Blank ArtDate reiterates the **School Day**: more than five hundred students of 20 classes from the High Schools that took part in the project **The Blank**

Educational, are guided to preview the exhibitions organized for ArtDate through different itineraries.

UBI Banca (Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, 8) at 3 pm presents the video by **Cosimo Terlizzi** "La benedizione degli animali" and organise an exclusive guided visit at the exhibition of selected artworks from its collection, curated by Enrico De Pascale.

The Spazio Polaresco (via del Polaresco, 15) from 2 to 7 pm hosts a performance, curated by the collective SIGNZ and Paolo Baraldi, that deepen the study of the letter and the alphabet highlighting the duality that elevates it until the sacredness.

The ex bookshop ARS (via Pignolo, 116) at 4.30 pm hosts the presentation of the catalogue **The Blank TR – Transit Message** and the exhibition of an habitat by **Flavia Mastrella**, "L'esaltazione dell'insignificante" (the following day the bookshop hosts a guided visit accessibile to hearing-impaired people with sign language translation).

The day ends in the evocative location of Porta S.Alessandro with the event organised by **Bergamo Film Meeting** in collaboration with The Blank: from 9.30 pm the OVO, a indie noise rock group, set to music live the film **Frankenstein** by James Whale.

The movie, based on the novel by Mary Shelley, it has been selected as, thanks to its success, the "creature" became part of the collective imagination, a "symbolic and metaphysics representation of the man, anguished and divided between gratitude and hate for the creator that made him so flawed". (P. Mereghetti).

Saturday 27 May

Gabriele De Santis and **Jonathan Monk**, two of the main exponents of contemporary art, hold a conference at Casa Suardi (Piazza Vecchia, Città Alta): the event, starting at 10 am, reflects on the necessary dialogue between artists and public and it is ironical about the usual distance between the two parts.

At 11.30 am Mauro Zanchi curates a visit to the visual itinerary of the choir of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, a rarity into the History of Art, that includes wood inlays by **Lorenzo Lotto** linked to the **Cult of the Sun**.

At 3 pm at BACO Arte Contemporanea (via Arena, 9) takes place an unusual analysis of **Bill Viola's** poetics by Corrado Benigni, Ugo Morelli, Stefano Raimondi, Mauro Zanchi.

The afternoon is characterised by the **GALLERIES TIME**, moment dedicated to openings and events at the galleries of The Blank network: Galleria Elleni (Renzo Nucara, Carla Volpati); Galleria Marelia (Ludovico Bomben); Galleria Triangoloarte (Gaetano Orazio); Studio d'arte Marco Fioretti (Dorothy Bhawl); Studio Vanna Casati (Valerio Ambiveri, Sabina Sala); Thomas Brambilla (Edoardo Piermattei); Traffic Gallery (Eve Hide); viamoronisedici/spazio arte (Davide Conventi); Quarenghicinquanta (Dario Guerini); Abitare Baleri (Andrea Baleri); Spazio Meno Uno (Edoardo Manzoni).

The day ends at the Monastery of Astino with a night-time visit, starting at 10.45 pm, to the exhibition "Mario Giacomelli: terre scritte".

The visit is focused on the unreleased pictures of landscapes seen from the sky, from the Archivio Mario Giacomelli of Sassoferrato, and illustrates a peculiar itinerary that reinterprets the author's experience: the rural landscape of the Marche, seen in a very personal way and interpreted in a both graphic and conceptual way.

Sunday 28 May

The Sunday program of ArtDate is dedicated to the "Holy Tour", a visit to three exceptional places of worship, in Bergamo and surroundings, in which there are important works of contemporary artists: The church of the Hospital Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Cemetery of Romano di Lombardia and the Church of San Giacomo Maggiore of Sedrina. From 9 am to 1 pm, the visitors are guided by the artists **Andrea Mastrovito, Stefano Arienti** and **Mario Airò**.

At 11 am at BACO inaugurates the exhibition "Amplitude" by **Francesco Pedrini**, curated by Sara Benaglia and Mauro Zanchi.

At Magus (via Camozzi, 144), the **Club GAMeC** organizes the annual Club GAMeC Prize at 3 pm. On show the artworks by Riccardo Baruzzi, Matteo Callegari, Giulia Cenci, Priscilla Tea for "Concretizing the Uninhabitable", curated by Domenico De Chirico.

At 4 pm GAMeC (via San Tomaso, 53) organizes guided visits to **Andy Warhol** and **Pamela Rosenkranz** exhibitions.

"The Multiplied Work" by Andy Warhol is linked to the theme of the Holy: the series production that characterizes the research of the artist "removes the product from the field of the tradition" (Benjamin, 1935), depriving it of its aura.

Coming up, the performance by **Gabriele De Santis** "We're short a guy": artists, collectors and art lovers, face each other in an unusual football match during which is compulsory for each player to hold or wear an artwork.

The day ends with contemporary locus 12: at 9 pm, at the Auditorium of Piazza della Libertà, in collaboration with Lab 80, there's the projection of the film by **Kader Attia** "Reflecting Memory" followed by a guided visit to the exhibition contemporary locus 12_Kader Attia, Alvin Curran at the Ex Albergo Diurno.

S. ANTONIO FESTIVAL – ARTISTIC SAGRA | THE BLANK

Oratory of Longuelo

26, 27, 28 May

For its seventh edition, **The Blank ArtDate** presents for the first time the project **Sagra dell'Arte**, an **evening meeting place** in which art and folk festival are combined.

Thanks to the collaboration with the organizing committee of the annual festival of Saint Anthony, one of the most popular in Bergamo, the **oratory of Longuelo** (via Longuelo, 39) becomes for three days the location of a real **artistic Sagra**, where the distinctive elements of this context -as food, music, dance, traditional games and furniture- are designed by some of the most important protagonists of the art world.

Cory Arcangel (American artist that works with the experimentation of new media and the relationship between technology and culture) designed the staff t-shirts, creating an unreleased graphic for the sagra; **Ryan Gander**, selected from his book *Artist's Cocktails* -containing the recipe of the favourite drinks of some of the most important artists of the world- the cocktails that will be served on Saturday night; **Erik Saglia** realized the "wheel of fortune"; **Marco Basta, Riccardo Beretta** and **Andrea Mastrovito** designed the place mats; **Simone Berti, Sergio Breviaro, Samuele Menin, Alessandro Roma** organize an unusual darts tournament in which the targets are artworks: in the Medieval iconography, darts, representing plague, war and famine, are thrown by Christ at the sinners, while the Virgin Mary protects the faithful with her veil that becomes a shield.

The colorful bunting is made by **Zak Kitnick**, while **Ethan Cook** shows bronze sculptures of food blending into the typical dishes of the festival.

Gabriele De Santis and **Jonathan Monk**, using a stand, develop an ironical reflection on the relationship between art and economy.

On the evening of Saturday 27, at the *Sagra*, takes place **DO YOU NEED MORE PROOF THAT WE ARE UNITED? | GHET BISÒGN DE OTRE PRÖE CHE 'N SÉ ÜNICC?**, an unprecedented **performance by Marinella Senatore**, among the Italian artists more recognized internationally.

Marinella Senatore pays homage to Bergamo with a performance dedicated to local traditions, taking inspiration from folk rituals.

The artist has involved a folkloristic group of Bergamo, the *Rataplum*, that performs together with a dj mixing their songs and creating an exclusive overlap of apparently incompatible languages.

The Blank ArtDate is organized by the cultural association The Blank under the patronage of Regione Lombardia, Comune di Bergamo and Camera di Commercio, in partnership with ATB Azienda Trasporti Bergamo, in media partnership with L'Eco di Bergamo, ATP Diary, Bergamo News and CTRL magazine, with the support of Fondazione Banca Popolare di Bergamo ONLUS and Fondazione Comunità Bergamasca.

On the occasion of The Blank ArtDate 2017 take place some events of the project AIR tour, realized by AIR - artinresidence/FARE in partnership with The Blank Contemporary Art, in collaboration with Distretto Culturale Valle Camonica and with the support of Fondazione Cariplo.

Information

The Blank Contemporary Art

Via G. Quarenghi 50 - 24122 Bergamo, Italy

associazione@theblank.it
+39 035 1990 3477
www.theblank.it

The Blank Press Office

CLP Relazioni Pubbliche
Marco Olianas - Tel. +39 02 36 755 700
e-mail: marco.olianas@clponline.it
www.clponline.it

Press release and photographs at www.clponline.it

VIP Card

More than 500 VIP Card sent to artists, curators, museums directors, collectors e and great personality of the art world.

VIP Card Benefit

- Free use of public transport | 26 27 28 May
- Free entrance at GAMeC – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea and Museo Bernareggi | 26 27 28 May
- Free guided visit with the curators of the exhibition "Pamela Rosenkranz" | 28 May, 4 pm
- Free coffee at Bugan Coffee Lab | 26 27 28 May
- Free Ryan Gander's drink | 27 May, 7-11 pm

VIP Assistance

The Blank ArtDate 2017 VIP Card can be requested contacting the vip assistance at vip@theblank.it