

Open call

Essenziale

Acquisition prize

An initiative of *nctm e l'arte*

Camilla Alberti, Fabrizio Bellomo, Francesco Bertocco, Rossella Biscotti, Raffaella Crispino, Effe Minelli, Riccardo Giacconi, Rachele Maistrello, Francesca Marconi, Elena Mazzi, Raziel Perin, Marco Maria Zanin are the artists who have been awarded the acquisition prizes made available by *nctm e l'arte* with the *Essenziale* call for artists: a call for visual artists of any generation, Italian or resident in Italy, to propose works that had developed themes that proved crucial during the period marked by the pandemic. With this call for artists, *nctm e l'arte* wanted to approach artists in the belief that, precisely in the most sensitive moments, art can be significant in its ability to interpret, elaborate and shape the present.

The numerous submissions received in response to the *Essenziale* call for artists were assessed by an evaluation committee composed of Matteo Lucchetti, Visible project curator (Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto/Fondazione Zegna) and independent curator, Adrian Paci, artist and Gabi Scardi, art director of *nctm e l'arte*.

Evaluation sessions were attended by the members of Nctm Next Generation Art Committee.

The criteria for awarding the acquisition prize were the relevance of the work and the artist's career.

The commission was able to ascertain the high overall level of the submissions.

The proposals submitted neatly represent the current artistic reality; they have been able to respond with sensitivity to the proposed theme, providing interesting stimuli for reflection.

The relevant reasons are given below.

Camilla Alberti (Rho, 1994)

Unbinding Creatures. Organismo 12, in progress.

Interested in the rhizomatic and ecosystem-based dimension of reality, Camilla Alberti explores how living organisms intertwine by combining elements of different origins, thus revealing their vitality and challenging the concept of inert matter in favour of the concept of ecosystem and community of life.

Fabrizio Bellomo (Bari, 1982)

FILM, 2020.

FILM is a journey through working or abandoned factories, mines and reconverted workshops, industrial towns and villages. It is a sort of compendium of Fabrizio Bellomo's long research into the theme of work and industrialization and the transformations of the Fordist society into a society of leisure. It includes video and audio notes of various kinds collected by the artist in a span of years.

Francesco Bertocco (Casorate Primo, 1983)

Comunitad, 2021.

With the video *Comunitad*, Bertocco focuses on the theme of care and medicine, highlighting their role as factors of identity affirmation. His attention goes to the contrast between official western-style medicine and system medicine in a country, Chile, where ethnic tension between the majority population and the original ethnic groups is still unresolved.

So, addressing the issue of political, ideological and socio-cultural choices underlying the concept of care and medicine, the artist combines the issue of care with the colonial and post-colonial dynamics that shape every aspect of today's world.

Rossella Biscotti (Molfetta, 1978)

The Journey, 2016.

The Journey Migrant Map stands at the meeting point between natural space and the legal space governing it, juxtaposing cold and impersonal legislative texts with dramatic experiences of contemporary migration. The work provides a picture of the control exercised in the abstract over the Mediterranean alongside the harsh reality that defies such rules.

Raffaella Crispino (Nola, 1979)

Il Mutuo Appoggio, in progress.

The work combines the topicality of the feminist debate with inclusive formats that are connected to Europe's colonial past in a critical and purposeful way, exploring texts by philosopher Silvia Federici. The participatory nature of the process reflects on the fragility and importance of relationships within a group of young women.

Effe Minelli (Pompei, 1986)

Wet Flowers, 2020.

In Effe Minelli's work, the practice of reviving Bourbon techniques for ceramics is combined with a research into the fragility of identities and the visual references that nourish them. The recovery of baroque forms embraces in these sculptures a queer horizon within the Neapolitan art scene, in a constant dialogue with the international scene.

Riccardo Giacconi (San Severino Marche, 1985)

œ, 2019-2020.

Retracing the tradition of puppetry and its importance as a craft that generates collective narratives, *œ* represents the final moment of a long research that the artist has carried out into popular traditions and their social and anthropological meanings.

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Rachele Maistrello (Vittorio Veneto, 1986)

THE HIDDEN SHAPES. Blue Diamond, in progress and *Hidden Shape #01*, 2021.

Rachele Maistrello's video *The Hidden Shapes* evokes an apnoea experience with clear psychological connotations. Generating a sense of interiority in which to immerse oneself, the artist proposes images of a "symbiotic" seabed, animated by the voices of the beings inhabiting it. The work is a journey of immersion and, at the same time, of listening, and represents the unknown and the incomprehensible that we may confront.

Francesca Marconi (Bollate, 1972)

Internazionale Corazon, 2019-2021.

With the *Internazionale Corazon* project, the artist has developed the idea of cultural crossbreeding, encounter between communities and inclusive citizenship: citizenship of bodies, open to fluid identities in terms of origin and gender. By identifying the urban fabric as the setting for rituals based on the energy of dance, the project highlights the importance of re-appropriating public space.

Elena Mazzi (Reggio Emilia, 1984)

Encounters, in progress and *Becoming with and unbecoming with (#6)*, 2019-2020.

Elena Mazzi's video *Encounters* and the sculptures of the *Becoming with and unbecoming with* series blend ecological themes with issues related to care. As the artist stated, these works arise from the need to rediscover a harmony between body and landscape and to recover a balance between human biorhythm and the natural course of the animal and vegetable kingdoms.

Raziel Perin (El Valle, 1992)

Corpi liberi, 2020.

The series of drawings *Corpi liberi* express the experience of bodies living in lockdown, starting with a dialogue between the artist and his partner confined to domestic space. The movements described respond to the perceived limitations with poses and tensions and show various degrees of freedom and restriction, imagining other forms of inhabiting and possible inner revolutions.

Marco Maria Zanin (Abano Terme, 1983)

Family portrait, 2021.

Family portrait describes the artist's reflection on the sense of time as part of his investigation into the creation of new relationships between different cultures and geographies. Indeed, the group of objects portrayed is an impossible encounter between genres, subjects, eras and styles that are poles apart. The common thread, the idea of family, stems from a common relationship with the land and from the condition of domestic captivity of the lockdown, during which the artist has created these visual and sensory relationships.

nctm e l'arte

nctm e l'arte is an independent project **supporting the art of the present.**

Launched in 2011 by Nctm Studio Legale under the art direction of Gabi Scardi, it originates from the belief in art as a privileged point of view on contemporaneity.

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