



FONDAZIONE  
PASTIFICIO CERERE

Presents

## ***Art. Class. War***

A night of music and performances

curated by Mike Watson

**Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2016, 8-11 pm**

**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**  
via degli Ausoni 7, Rome

FREE ENTRY

press release

**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** presents, on **Saturday 26th of November at 8 pm**, ***Art. Class. War***, an event curated by **Mike Watson**. The event will bring together VJ's, performers and DJ's to present audio, visual and performance works which address issues about social class and war in the context of art.

These artistic forms of expression are able to promote discussion directly by engaging the public both physically and mentally, putting into movement both ideas and bodies.

Art has to return to playing a key role in promoting public awareness of complex issues that affect each of us in our daily lives. The economic crisis exacerbated social inequalities, and globalization revealed the complicity of finance in the indiscriminate human exploitation of natural resources and the destruction of war, which has recently led to mass migration and a new virulent form of racism across Europe.

Art can stand against the excessive power of the dominant classes and can provide the tools to address the worst excesses of capitalism, just as powerful subcultural movements (such as the beatniks or punk, rap or rave movements) did in the past.

All too often art put directly itself to the service of power by promoting the interests of the capitalist class via signs which mesmerise, confuse and pacify, or by providing a cultural distraction for the elite, who lose themselves in the irony and glamour of the biennale or art fair. That's why the art system needs first to look at itself before addressing the injustices of class and power.

*Art. Class. War* aims to place the art world for one evening firmly at the centre of these issues involving the public in a night of music and performance, aiming above all to ask what role art has to play in the nexus of class and war.

The event is organised in collaboration with **The Rome Process**, a new platform created by Mike Watson which sets out to explore, through a program of events, performances and shows, the possibilities of education through art in cultural and public spaces with particular attention paid towards the city of Rome and its specific cultural traits.

The event is part of the project **Transnational Capitalism Examined**, the double solo exhibition of Austrian artist **Oliver Ressler** curated by **Mike Watson**, organised in collaboration with **The Gallery Apart** and with the support of the **Austrian Cultural Forum in Rome**.

## **SCHEDULE**

- **Robert Pettena and Valeria Rugi** – Performance
- **Andrew Rutt** - Performance
- **L.O.A.L - League of Art Legends** (Simone Bertugno and Mike Watson) - Live Electronics VJ Set
- **AnttiTenetz** - VJ Set
- **T/Error** - Live Music Set

## **Biographies**

**Robert Pettena** , born in Penbury (UK) in 1970, spent a large part of his youth and adolescence between Brixton (London) and San Giovenale (Reggello, Italy). In 1990 he moved to Florence, where he attended the Accademia di Belle Arti. He is an artist-cum-traveller probing the wonders and inconsistencies of the world, seizing conflicting aspects of reality in a manner both poetic and a provocative. Alongside photography, video-art and installations, his work includes performances and site-specific projects involving other players besides himself, often hailing from the artistic underground in which Pettena has identified a potential and an energy that he transfers and channels into a variety of situations, sparking a short-circuit in his audience's senses.

**Andrew Rutt** studied Fine Art and Critical Theory at Central St. Martins and Goldsmiths College in London. Since 2000 he has been based in Rome. His works incorporate videos, sculptures, photographs and installations. Selected exhibitions include: *Exotic Dancers* (1999, VTO Gallery, London); *Underwood Audio II* (2002, Underwood Gallery, London) *Everything Must Go* (2006, VTO Gallery , London), *a Book in the Back of Your Head* (2007 Gallery Navona 42, Rome) as well as several participations in group exhibitions at Galleries in London and Rome.

**Simone Bertugno** was born in 1963 in Rome, where he lives and develops his artistic activity. After having studied at the Fine arts academy in Rome (he graduated in sculpture in 1987), he sized up his work in the fields of sculpture and theatre, in which he manages to find his expressive path. His work deals with space, perception and sound. He has participated to many group and solo exhibitions in Italy and abroad.

**Mike Watson** is an art theorist, critic and curator based in Italy who is principally focused on the relation between art and politics. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from Goldsmiths College and has curated for Nomas Foundation and at both the 55th and 56th Venice Biennale. In May 2016 he published a book entitled 'Towards a Conceptual Militancy' for ZerO books. He has written regularly for Frieze, Art Review, Radical Philosophy and Hyperallergic.

**AnttiTenetz** is a visual artist and an experimental documentarist. Tenetz's works are situated on the interface between media arts, activism, bio arts and urban art. In his works he combines and fearlessly uses different forms of expression, different media, different technological platforms and materials, even nature. His focus is on multi-disciplinary and multi-artistic cooperation between art and science. He has worked with international artist groups such as Subzero, The Finnish Society of Bioart and Grafting Parlour and also in cooperation with research units, such as the MIT, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Arctic Centre, Thule Institute and Aalto University.

**T/Error** is an artist of electronic music active since 2013. His music is characterised by dark and hypnotic sound which depicts with a sense of drama a post apocalyptic universe where only mutants survived. Among his albums: "D7" (Bass Agenda rec., 2015), "U 235" (Body Control rec., 2015), "Dimensional Invasion e.p." (Self Released, 2015), "Eka Bismuth" (Bass Agenda rec., 2016).

## **CONTACTS**

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