



FONDAZIONE
PASTIFICIO CERERE



present

Patrimonio indigeno

a new urban artwork by

Lucamaleonte

Curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Opening: Friday, February 8th, 18h

Rome, Via dei Piceni 38

Press release

Friday 8th February at 18 the Pastificio Cerere Foundation and SCS SVILUPPO IMMOBILIARE SRL are proud to introduce ***Patrimonio Indigeno (Indigenous Heritage)***, a new, extraordinary mural made by the artist **Lucamaleonte**, curated by Marcello Smarrelli, made in the neighbourhood of San Lorenzo, one of the main landmarks of Roman street art.

This service concerns the façades of a building located between Via dei Reti and Via dei Piceni—deeply scarred by the numerous bombings that injured the neighbourhood during World War II – recently rebuilt thanks to the help of SCS SVILUPPO IMMOBILIARE SRL.

Pastificio Cerere Foundation – a cultural safeguard that has characterized the life of the neighbourhood since the 70's – has gladly accepted the challenge of facing an artistic experience, such as mural painting and street art, nowadays very popular, but undoubtedly rich in contradictions regarding its appreciation and location inside the contemporary art system.

Thus *Indigenous Heritage* was born, a monumental artwork (a 9,50x7,90m and 9,50x4,50m diptych) in honor of the identity of the S. Lorenzo neighbourhood, a conceptual map, a portrait, offering an interpretation inside a vegetal settlement, Lucamaleonte created an artwork that converses with its urban context, with the latter's current identity and historical memory.

History of art and other classical sources, have been a vital inspirational reservoir for the artist, together with his passion for copies depicting images of plants and animals, paired with the study of ancient herbaria and illustrated books on zoology.

Gushing out from the dense vegetation, that should have featured the ancient *agro verano*, one



might find various elements: the grate, used for the martyrdom of S. Lorenzo, a capital of the old basilica, the crow and chrysanthemums referring to the nearby cemetery, the hand of the goddess Ceres, the totemic woodpecker of the Piceni, the poppy, honoring the memory of soldiers fallen in battle, direct reference to the partisan-like and antifascist spirit of the neighbourhood, the laurel and snake of the Minerva, which has always been a tutelary name of the Sapienza University.

On the occasion of the inauguration, Lucamaleonte will paint an icosahedron as a finishing touch, a regular shape carrying multiple symbolic meanings, that the artist uses to sign his artworks.

As with all artistic expressions, the street art represents a powerful instrument of urban redevelopment and propagation of culture, upon which it is worth to invest, benefiting from its popularity. Thanks to an immediate and transversal language the street art, thought of as an artistic maintenance of the urban space, can reach a varied and diverse public with ease.

It is fundamentally important that such tasks are to be paired with ample projects, based on a back and forth dialogue between artists, citizens and institutions that show interest and are ready to promote development and integration policies. Thanks to the society that generously offered its help in supporting the creation of the artwork, the institutions, the people of the neighbourhood, and the Pastificio Cerere Foundation, which has successfully mediated the union of all these miscellaneous entities, we believe to have helped spread a different, more positive image of San Lorenzo, compared to the unfair drama that the current events seem to have encased us in.

As is customary, the Pastificio Cerere Foundation will organize guided tours and workshops aimed at schools as well as people of the territory. (for any additional information: +39 06 45422960 – info@pastificiocerere.it)

Biography

Lucamaleonte (1983) was born in Rome where he still lives and works. With a degree in Renovation, achieved at the Istituto Centrale, he approaches the Street Art movement in 2001. Passionate scholar of History of Art, the art of drawing and painting walks him through his young years. His first works that appear in the streets are homemade stickers, he begins using the first masks and realizes that the stencil is the most efficient and productive technique for the creation of his art. His C.V. is brimming with over fifty exhibitions, among which we can find collective and solo shows that range from 2004 to today: from the Cans Festival in London promoted by the international Street Art guru himself Tristan Manco, to the impressive street art group show Scala Mercalli at the Auditorium of Rome, to the traveling exhibit “Twenty Street Artists” commissioned by Green Day in the States. Lucamaleonte has been called to present his displays around the world, from Milan to Melbourne and Adelaide, passing by Berlin, Paris, and New York. With the French collective Stencil History X, the artist has performed in the top European capitals, from London to Barcelona. Not only an artist, but a promoter for international street art, together with the artists Sten and Lex, he designed and curated the three editions of the International Poster Art festival in Rome. In 2010 and 2011 he was called by the Orticanoodles to present two workshops at the MART of Trento and Rovereto. He was also recently called by the Italian-Brazilian embassy for the project Mural Italia-Brasil, for which he realized many mural renovations in Salvador, Brazil (2012). Extraordinarily successful was the exhibition that the Casa dell’Architettura of Rome dedicated to him in March of 2012. During these last few years he’s been performing in different museums of Europe and is still traveling, painting murals around the world.



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