



FONDAZIONE
PASTIFICIO CERERE

Otto Karvonen
Iniziativa canto d'uccello
curated by Riikka Vainio

Opening Tuesday, September 24th 2019, 19:00

From September 25th to October 5th 2019

Pastificio Cerere Foundation
Spazio Molini
Via degli Ausoni 7 – Rome

press release

Rome, June 2019

Tuesday, September 24th 2019 at 19:00 **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** presents ***Iniziativa canto d'uccello*** (Birdsong Initiative), personal exhibition of the Finnish artist **Otto Karvonen**, curated by **Riikka Vainio**. The exhibition will take place in **Spazio Molini**, obtained thanks to the recovery of the ancient Pastificio Cerere windmill, and will be open to the public until October 5th 2019.

The artist repeats in Rome his presentation *Birdsong Initiative* performed for the first time in Vienna in 2018, with which he ponders over anti-immigration political programs spread during these last years in Europe, where far-right, populist parties have steadily become more powerful. Karvonen matches the status of the birds to that of asylum-seekers, provocatively suggesting new linguistic restrictions for the migrating birds, which should be bound to learn the song of the local national bird in order to obtain their residency permit.

During the performance a speech is made, which suggests the absurd civic initiative on the regulation of the song of the birds, borrowing the rhetoric of the public rallies held by the xenophobic and nationalist right-wing political parties: "one bird, one song, one identity! Italian sparrows first!"

During the exhibition, via video-installation, the performance results will be shown; a performance which took place during June of 2019 in the streets and squares of Rome, during which the artist interviewed the citizens and bystanders asking questions regarding foreigners and migratory birds, regarding language and the song of the birds. This work deals with the theme of language as a load-bearing element of the national identity and at the same time as a means of inclusion and exclusion.

Otto Karvonen unfolds a new perspective regarding the current social matters: what migration implies, what our attitude is towards foreigners, how widespread nationalistic values are, hence how such a significant political theme of the last few decades is dealt with and lived.

Biography

Otto Karvonen has studied at the University of Arts and Design of Helsinki and at the Amsterdam Sandberg Institute. His works have been shown in numerous establishments as well as national and international exhibitions, including: Kunsthalle Exnergasse (2018, Vienna), HAM (2018, Helsinki), Heino Gallery (2018, Helsinki), Centre Pompidou (2016, Paris), CA2M Art Centre (2014, Madrid), Kiasma (2012, Helsinki), Copenhagen Art Festival (2012, Copenhagen), de Appel (2010, Amsterdam), Liverpool Biennial 2008, Göteborg Biennial 2007 and Singapore Biennial 2006. Karvonen has also realized various public artworks, his last one being found in the Central Helsinki Library of Oodi.

CONTACTS

Fondazione Pastificio Cerere

Organizational office: Claudia Cavaliere and Emanuela Pigliacelli

+39 06 45422960

info@pastificiocerere.it

www.pastificiocerere.it

Press office: press@pastificiocerere.it

Press Kit: bit.ly/2Rr6kB7

INFORMATION REGARDING THE EXHIBITION

Title: *Iniziativa canto d'uccello – Birdsong Initiative*

Artist: Otto Karvonen

Curator: Riikka Vainio

Venue: Pastificio Cerere Foundation - Spazio Molini, via degli Ausoni 7 – Rome

Opening: September 24th 2019, at 19.00

Open to the public: September 25th –October 5th 2019

Schedules: Monday to Saturday from 15.00 to 19.00

With the supporting of:

frame contemporary art
finland

With the patronage of:



Ambasciata di Finlandia
Roma

ROMA

Assessorato alla Crescita culturale

Technical sponsor:

CASALE DEL GIGLIO®

Follow us on:

