

***Landscape No. 2***

 **Agostino Iacurci and the restoration of Pastificio Cerere**

18 October to 30 December 2021

Pastificio Cerere

Piazza dei Sanniti, Rome

Rome, October 2021

Artist **Agostino Iacurci** has created *Landscape No. 2* at the invitation of **Marcello Smarrelli**, Artistic Director of Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, on the occasion of the restoration of the external façade of Palazzo Pastificio Cerere. The project will transform the façade of the former San Lorenzo semolina factory overlooking Piazza dei Sanniti into a monumental work of art.

The work is part of a **new cycle of interventions** by the artist characterised by the juxtaposition and repetition of natural and architectural elements. In his practice, Iacurci, who is known for his large-scale pictorial interventions in public spaces and his 'talking architecture', collects and reworks heterogeneous materials, thus generating visions in which history and personal memories, bibliographic sources and vernacular tales are freely associated.

The image produced consists in a pattern of about 400 square metres; it is like an **architectural matrix** made up of a series of geometric and figurative elements that refer to the history of the building itself. In Iacurci's vision, the jars used to transport wheat and other foodstuffs become gigantic silos; these alternate with ears of corn that, while alluding to the landscape, as the title suggests, also recall the crown and the 'bouquet' that Ceres – goddess of harvests and rebirth – holds in traditional iconographic representations.

The landscape is thus reinterpreted on a **natural, architectural and cultural** level, thereby generating a pattern that can be reproduced ad infinitum.

At the end of the works, the PVC cover will be reused by the **Coloriage social tailoring workshop**, which was founded in 2019 and is open to unemployed people, migrants and asylum seekers, to make bags. A series of abstract images will be obtained from the fragmentation of the cloth, thus giving the once public work a second life as an intimate, personal object.

*Landscape No. 2* by Agostino Iacurci is the follow-up to *Whole Wheat*, a similar project by Francesco Simeti, who, in 2010, created the cover for the restoration works on the Pastificio Cerere façades overlooking Via Tiburtina and Via degli Ausoni. On that occasion, too, bags were made in a craft workshop run in collaboration with the Casal del Marmo Juvenile Prison, thus confirming Fondazione Pastificio Cerere's commitment to carrying out projects with a social and environmental impact capable of dialoguing with the public space, with a view to taking constant care of the area, its cultural values and the communities it serves.

**Agostino Iacurci**

**Agostino Iacurci (1986) is an Italian-born, Berlin-based artist.**

**His practice embraces a wide range of media, including painting, mural, sculpture, drawing, and installation. In addition, he creates immersive spaces to transform the perception of given environments.**

**Recent solo exhibitions include Tracing Vitruvio, Musei Civici, Pesaro (2019); Gypsoteca, M77 Gallery, Milan (2018); Trompe l'oeil, Celaya Brothers Gallery, Mexico City (2017).**

**Amongst the recent group exhibitions: In Between, Crossing Art Gallery, New York (2021); Premio Termoli LXII, MACTE, Termoli (2021); Talent Prize 2019, Mattatoio, Rome (2019); Graffiare il presente, Casa Testori, Novate Milanese (2018); Urban Art Biennale, Völkinger Hütte, European Centre for Art and Industrial Culture (2017); Cross the streets, MACRO Museum, Rome (2017); FADA, House of Madness, The Watermill Center, New York (2016); 16° Premio Cairo, Palazzo della Permanente, Milan (2015).**

**Since 2009 he has been creating monumental wall paintings and installations for public and private institutions. Recent commissions include Ludwigs-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen (2021); Life is Beautiful, Las Vegas (2021); Principal Place, London (2020); Yakutsk Biennale, Yakutsk (2017); Distrito Tec University, Monterrey (2016); Govind Puri Metro Station, New Delhi (2016); Istituto Mario Penna, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Fubon Art Foundation, Taipei (2012).**

**He was the recipient of Premio New York 2020 promoted by MiBACT, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Italian Cultural Insti­tute of New York, Italian Academy – Columbia University, and ISCP.**

**In 2020 he was the recipient of Cantica21, Italian Contemporary Art Everywhere Prize, with the project Hortus for Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato.**

**He has developed collaborations with international brands and publishers, including Apple, Adidas, Brookfield Properties, Einaudi, Herman Miller, Laterza, La Repubblica, MailChimp, Mindspace, Penguin books, Starbucks, TBWA, The New Yorker, Urban Outfitters, Vespa, Warby Parker.**

[www.agostinoiacurci.com](http://www.agostinoiacurci.com)

**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**

**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** was established in Rome in 2004 with the aim of its president, **Flavio Misciatelli**, to promote contemporary art.

In 2005 the Foundation opened in what was once the **Pastificio Cerere**, a former pasta factory built in 1905 and which operated until the second postwar period. From the Seventies, artists spontaneously began to populate the abandoned factory. During the years the building has seen the coming and going of many different artists, then critics, intellectuals and representatives of the entertainment industry who all gravitated around this workshop which became a point of reference for culture.

The Foundation’s purpose is preserving this remarkable cultural heritage, first of all, allowing users to freely access a space dedicated to **contemporary art**: through a rich proposal of **meetings, exhibitions and laboratories** – with encouraging the interaction of contemporary artistic languages and the experimentation of new modes of presence and participation, stimulating an open dialogue with the city and involving an increasingly heterogeneous public.

Since 2011, after **Marcello Smarrelli** was appointed artistic director, the Foundation has developed an increasingly strong interest toward artistic experiences, deeply tied to matters regarding cultural and territorial politics, to **public art projects**, to **educational and innovative programmes**, and by establishing scholarships going towards residences aimed at young artists and curators and activities for students part of a heterogeneous age group (students of all ages).

Today, already at the entrance of this majestic building we have the impression of being inside an attractive, inclusive place. A rare example of a private space which naturally turned, thanks to the presence of the artists, into a workshop of contemporary art, a **cultural hub** where **research**, **innovation** and **experimentation** are entwined sensibly with the events of the city and talk with public and private bodies, and cultural institutions from every corner of the World.

[www.pastificiocerere.it](http://www.pastificiocerere.it)

**Coloriage**

Coloriage is a social tailoring workshop open to unemployed people, migrants and asylum seekers.

The workshop houses a tailoring atelier where unique original collections are created and a Free Fashion School where designers, professionals and workers from all backgrounds pass on their knowledge and stories.

[www.coloriage.it](http://www.coloriage.it)



**CONTACTS**

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