



S E R G I O B A R B À R A

Short portfolio

B i o

Born in Palermo (1993), he's a coworker of the art factory Dimora Oz, a cultural melting pot whose focus are people, relational dynamics and transdisciplinary paths, based in Palazzo Sambuca, in the heart of the historic center of Palermo.

He begins his career as a curator of art exhibitions and cultural events, founding a group of young artists (Art in Progress) who worked on unconventional places and abandoned monuments to give them new life.

Later he chooses to start his own artistic career focusing on site-specific actions, which includes a preliminary phase of careful study of the place and its socio-cultural context, then producing a work of strong conceptual and spiritual power. He pursues the dream of a new humanism in harmony with nature.



E d u c a t i o n

2016 degree in Philosophy, University of Palermo

2019 degree in Art History, University of Florence

E x h i b i t i o n s

- ART IN PROGRESS. *Giovani Spazza-crisi per Rinascere* 13 December 2013 - 5 January 2014, Palazzo Oneto di Sperlinga, Palermo
- IN HOC SIGNO 10 - 18 October 2015, Palazzo Costantino-Di Napoli, Palermo
- PURISSIMA CARNE 5 - 14 February 2016, Palazzo Costantino- Di Napoli, Palermo
- ORIGINI 5 - 31 March 2016, Cappella dell'Incoronazione (RISO Museum), Palermo
- IL FORTINO LIBRARIO 23 - 24 April 2016, Palazzo Gaetani di Bastiglia, Palermo
- BIAS 2016 24 May - 5 June 2016, Palazzo Donà delle Rose, Cannaregio, Venezia
- SCALA DEI TURCHI WHITE WALL" Agosto 2016, Scala dei Turchi, Realmonte (Agrigento)
- BIAS 2016 23 September - 30 October 2016, Palazzo Belmonte Riso (RISO Museum) and Palazzo Gaetani di Bastiglia, Palermo
- HOTSPOT 15 - 29 October 2016, Dimora Oz (Palazzo Barlotta Principe di San Giuseppe), Palermo
- TRIPTHYC OF TRANSITIONS March - April 2017, Chiostro della Casa Professa dei Crociferi, Palermo
- BIAS 2018 14 April - 14 September 2018, Palazzo Belmonte Riso (RISO Museum), Palermo

O C U L U M

(installation)

14 April - Today
RISO Museum, Palermo

For the second edition of BIAS (International Biennial of Sacred Art and of the religions of humanity) *O C U L U M* reinterprets one of the attributes of Allah: "Al-Fattâh" or "He Who Opens." In the Islamic religion Allah is qualified as the One who with his will and power discloses all that is closed, dissipates adversity and helps man in critical moments: He "possesses the keys of the invisible, which only He knows" (Sura 6, verse 59).

O C U L U M is a bridge to another reality, an eye on the unknown, a break opened on an upside-down realm which is a mirror image of ours. An uncertain door, present but liquid, which allows one to contemplate ourselves.



The work is composed of a cypress victim of one of the arson fires that with inexorable cyclicity devastate the Sicilian landscape; it is the symbol of a world whose values are turned upside down, in which the life-generating Nature suffers the destructive action of man.

Triphthyc of Transitions (installation)

March - April
Casa Professa of the Company of
"Crociferi", Palermo

Change is the essential condition of every organic, social and cultural system. The foundations of every process rest on the ashes of a past that never disappears: a civilization builds itself starting from the decay of the previous one, from which, however, it draws numerous elements to remodel and mature autonomously. Birth, growth to a climax, decline and death are fundamental steps in plant and animal life.

The existence is made of continuous transitions:

. COAL remnant of something that has been and has come to its decay, but also a resource to make fertile the place that will welcome a new life;

. SALT, a metaphor of purification, but also of radical obliteration;

. EARTH, the basis of life, a place in which to graft roots and build new realities.



The Great HUG

(installation)

August - Today
Scala dei Turchi White Wall
Realmonte (AG)

HUG is an anthropomorphic giant (six meters high) that rises from the bowels of the earth in times of crisis, when men are blinded by hatred and raise barriers against their brothers.

Hug is composed of worn clothes and rags, a symbol of the victims of Europe's indifference to the tragedy of thousands of deaths in the Mediterranean. They are the lymph that animates the giant, which rises from one of the extremities of Sicily, a bridge for people who try to reach the well-being of northern Europe with great sacrifice.

HUG's gesture is a huge embrace for the Mediterranean and the whole world, to rediscover the value of hospitality.



Pillars of Creation

(sculpture, photos, drawings)

24 May - 5 June

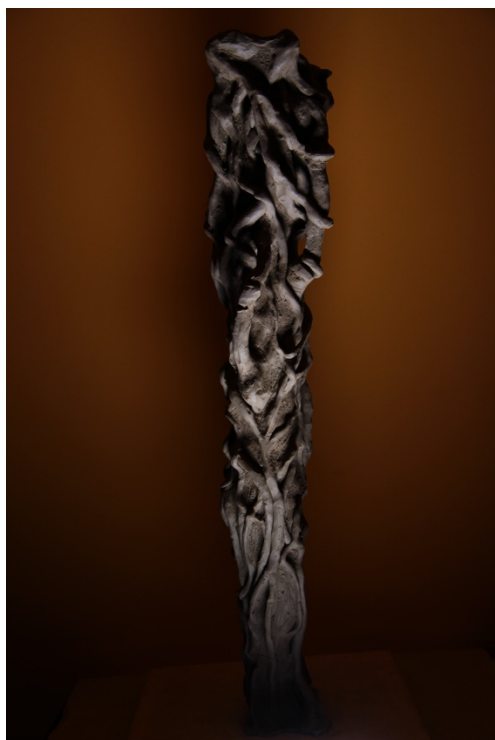
Donà dalle Rose Palace, Venezia

23 September - 30 October

RISO Museum, Palermo

The suggestion that animates the work originates from the specific case represented by a vegetable widespread in the Sicilian territory, introduced during the nineteenth century for ornamental purposes: the *Ficus macrophylla* sub. *columnaris*. The peculiarity of this tree is its columnar aerial roots, which descend from the high branches to the ground, turning into additional trunks that increase the stability of the entire structure.

The descending movement of the *Ficus* roots becomes a symbol of the first act of creation of Allah, which with its power descends on inert matter, impressing on it a form. Creation is a continuous regeneration, a continuous unraveling and re-shaping of the matter according to an order that continuously redefines its contours but never loses the link with its own project, the vital structure that links everything in a universe.



ROOTS. Where's my land? (installation/sculpture)

5 - 31 March
Cappella dell'Incoronazione
(RISO Museum), Palermo

24 September - 30 October
Palazzo Gaetani di Bastiglia, Palermo

The *ἀρχή* of every structure, individual or collective, is in the foundations. The roots, the origin of progressive developments, a solid basis for ideological constructions and moral values, are the link between the intimate compactness of the soil and the upward thrust of animate beings. Like plants, men are anchored to the ground by their roots and from them they jump to an uncertain verticality. Being deprived of that fund, of that solid foundation, is a grave act of violence that exposes us to our fragile nakedness. We desire the earth, stability in a world dominated by chaos. The roots of an olive tree, torn from their land, deprived of their soil, are sacralized by breaking up into three fragments of the original unity and within the Chapel of the Coronation they are placed as a symbol of rebirth, having risen with a new identity after the natural death of the tree because of the pests that have corroded it from



SSS A Sicilian Story of Sacrifice

(video-installation)

5 - 14 February

Palazzo Costantino-Di Napoli

Palermo

An ancient Arab legend tells of an immense treasure (called "Banco di Disisa") hidden by a rich Saracen in a cave in the feud of Disisa, near Grisi (Palermo), able to make the whole Sicily rich. But there's a spell on the treasure: those who try to take it away will not be able to find the exit until they have left every piece of it inside the cave. The only way to take away the treasure is to find three people named "Santi Turrisi," coming from the three corners of the ancient kingdom, sacrificing a white mare, extracting the entrails and then eating them together; subsequently also the three men must be killed and finally the treasure can be brought to light.

The double sacrifice, animal and human, constitutes the heart of the story: the macabre act by which the entrails are taken from a mare (white, pure as a sacred virgin) to make a shared meal, is an offering to the earth that is soaked with this blood. Blood that returns to flow when the weight of the horrendous act demands an expiation through human sacrifice. The story is a symbol of the archaic, visceral connection between Sicilian people and their land, a living presence that influences their way of reading reality..



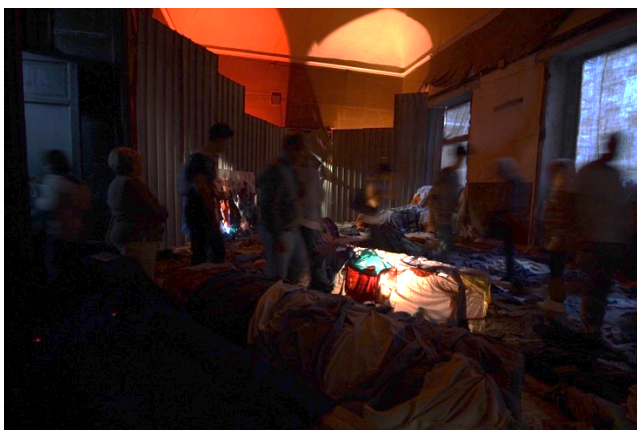
IN_FRANGERSI

(installation)

10 - 18 October
Palazzo Costantino-Di Napoli
Palermo

The installation consists of a walkable surface of clothes and rags, symbol of migrants, which like a wave is destined to break against the wall of European indifference; sinister noises and broken sounds (elaborated by the scenographer Mattia Pirandello) accompany the journey of the public, forced to crush the rags in order to proceed with the visit.

Interactive site-specific scenography created for the 11th Contemporary Art Day promoted by AMACI.



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