

# ANTONIO MARRAS PER NAPOLI QUESTI MIEI FANTASMI

curated by **Vincenzo Trione**

June-September 2023

Vicoletto San Pietro a Majella e Rampe del Salvatore, Naples

From June 2023 in Naples, **contemporary art returns to the fore** with a rich programme of exhibitions and installations presented at the behest of the mayor **Gaetano Manfredi** and curated by **Vincenzo Trione**, mayor's councillor for contemporary art and museum activities. The ambitious goal is to strengthen the city's vocation for contemporary art through a series of initiatives designed specifically for public spaces and museum sites by leading artists of our time. Among the first artists invited to reinterpret some symbolic places of the city: Antonio Marras, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Gaetano Pesce, Claudio Parmiggiani, Francesco Vezzoli, Daria D'Antonio and Paolo Sorrentino.

The programme starts with the installation by Antonio Marras (Alghero, 1961), *Questi miei fantasmi*, conceived for the spaces of Vicoletto San Pietro a Majella and the Rampe del Salvatore and produced in collaboration with the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli, FOQUS-Fondazione Quartieri Spagnoli and Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella.

The organisation and communication are the responsibility of the Electa publishing house.

## Open. Art in the centre

*Questi miei fantasmi* was created as part of the Open. Art in the centre project, the chapter of contemporary Naples that brings together works and exhibitions intended for public spaces in the historic centre. In particular, Marras's work marks the return to the city of the Rampe del Salvatore, closed since the seventies and reopened for the occasion.

## *Marras per Napoli*, for the first time

Marras chooses to intervene in the heart of the city with a light and airy installation consisting of 200 lanterns and 150 Orfanelle hand-embroidered and machine-sewn by the students of the Accademia di Belle Arti of Naples. It is exhibited in the spaces of FOQUS-Fondazione Quartieri Spagnoli, coordinated by Paola Maddaluno and Enrica d'Aguanno, under the guidance of Flowers Interior designer Antonio Giovanni Serra and his staff, together with the illustrator and professor of graphic arts Giorgio Bramante Donini. The subject of the work, which pays homage in the title to Eduardo De Filippo's comedy *Questi fantasmi*, is light: a symbol of life, rebirth and hope for the whole community. Emanating from lanterns, decorated with different fabrics from the haute couture collection (donated by the artist), the light animates the colourful patchwork of colours and textures, evoking the beauty stemming from the encounter between differences. Diffused by the Orfanelle, nightshirts from the 1920s and 30s (donated by Second Life) placed in suspension that move freely in the air like glowing entities, light fills the space with brightness, giving rise to installations combining performance with scenography.



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## Art, education and the region

Like most of the projects planned in Contemporary Naples, *Questi miei fantasmi* was devised in collaboration with the city's active entities. In particular, Marras's installation was designed in collaboration with the Naples Accademia di Belle Arti and the Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella to encourage the training of young people and the design and professional growth of the cultural and artistic fabric of the region.

The main elements of the work, such as the Lanterns and the Orfanelle, were created in the spaces of FOQUS-Fondazione Quartieri Spagnoli. Students of the Scuola di Progettazione Artistica per l'Impresa at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Naples were involved in a workshop coordinated by Paola Maddaluno and Enrica d'Aguzzo, together with Antonio Giovanni Serra, Giorgio Bramante Donini and their staff. The students made 200 Orfanelle using the embroidery and hand-sewing technique. And they made 150 Lanterns decorated with a patchwork of different colours and weights from waste fabrics from the Marras archive.

## Public art

The historic centre of Naples, with its stratification of eras and cultural influences, provides fertile ground for Marras's creativity. Drawing on his ability to combine traditional elements with a contemporary aesthetic, he interprets a public project capable of fusing the city's history and its present. The involvement of students in the conception and production of the work also helps create a deeper link between the installation and the people living in or visiting the city.

Internationally known for his work as a designer, Marras expands his creativity beyond the world of fashion, embracing a wide range of disciplines, especially art and theatre. His installations, often featuring found objects and recycled fabrics, are a reminder of memory and tradition. Throughout his career, he has made a number of public art projects that have become an integral part of the urban landscape. Among others, *Portodentro* (2016), conceived for the Piazza Civica of Alghero, and *E luce fu* (2019), devised for the streets of the historic centre of Pesaro.

**Antonio Marras** (Alghero, 1961). Marras debuted with his first fashion show in 1988. From 2003 to 2011 he directed the Kenzo fashion house. In 2013, he received an honorary diploma in visual arts from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera. In his research, fashion engages in a constant dialogue with the contemporary languages, in particular art, with his close ties to artists such as Maria Lai and Carol Rama resulting in important collaborations. He has exhibited his creations in solo and group shows. Among others: the retrospective *Antonio Marras: Nulla dies sine linea* at the Milan Triennale (2017); the exhibition *Trama doppia: Maria Lai, Antonio Marras* at Palazzo Lanfranchi in Matera (2019), and participation in the Italian Pavilion of the Venice Biennale (2011). Also important are the installations curated by Marras, such as the one for *Un altro tempo. Tra Decadentismo e Modern Style* at the Mart in Rovereto (2012). In 2022 his works were exhibited in the courtyard of the State University of Milan during Design week.

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