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## ARTISSIMA 2021

### Second edition of the Torino Social Impact Art Award: the winners of the call *ZOOM IN/ZOOM OUT*

The project **Torino Social Impact Art Award** – conceived by **Artissima** and **Torino Social Impact**, with the support of **Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo**, and aimed at emerging talents with a multicultural and migratory background – announces the two winners of the second edition of the residency programme: **Monia Ben Hamouda** (Milano, 1991) and the **MRZB** collective.

Selected through a call issued to the main Italian Academies of Fine Arts and Universities, **the winners** will have the opportunity to take part in a **residency** in Torino for **20 days over the month of July** and to work on the creation of a photographic or video work, offering a contribution to the transformation of social perception on particularly urgent themes or life stories considered “distant”. During the residency the artists will stay at **Combo**, *hospitality partner* of the project and an innovative format that combines the idea of hospitality with cultural programming open to experimentation.

**The videos and photographs produced during the residency programme will be presented at Artissima 2021** (5-7 November).

The artists will rely on a **tutoring service** by **Matteo Mottin** and **Ramona Ponzini**, founders of the art project **Treti Galaxie** who, together with Artissima and Torino Social Impact, will accompany the winners in the discovery of the city and its most significant cultural and social phenomena. The young talents will be guided through the production of the work and will be able to interact with the curators of the project and the network of Torino Social Impact active in the territory, exploring the world of entrepreneurial initiative and social innovation.

The winners were selected by the **Committee of the “Torino Social Impact Art Award”** composed of Ilaria Bonacossa, Director of Artissima, Giovanna Melandri, President of MAXXI and President of Social Impact Agenda per l'Italia, Mario Calderini, professor at Politecnico di Milano and spokesperson of Torino Social Impact, Antonio Damasco, Director of Rete Italiana di Cultura Popolare, Matteo Bergamini, editor-in-chief at Exibart, Matteo Mottin and Ramona Ponzini, founders of the art project Treti Galaxie and tutors of the second edition of the award.

The theme of the second edition, ***ZOOM IN/ZOOM OUT***, suggests our contemporary and complex virtual way of living that has forced us to experience the art world almost exclusively from a distance, but also leads to reflections on the possibility of reaching a new, unexpected vision of society, when it is observed from up close or, in perspective, from far away. The specific backgrounds of the winners will offer access to these perspectives, which are as various as they are precious, enabling them to narrate the contemporary society of Torino in a transverse way, as emblematic of a country in transformation.

The **Torino Social Impact Art Award** is the result of the desire to create a dialogue between art and social innovation, with the aim of initiating **actions that can have an impact on the present, in the contemporary society**. Starting with the conviction that art is capable of providing tools and physical spaces in which to question urgent social issues, the project fosters experimentation in the

field of the arts as a catalyst for the development of new responses or structured solutions. The objective is to offer a possibility of access to an art career for young people hailing from other contexts, to hypothesize forms of social insertion in the world of Italian culture, and to foster the spread of messages able to positively transform the perception of what may often seem distant, extraneous or diverse.

The first edition of the project – titled *Quante Italie?* – awarded Caterina Erica Shanta (Germany, 1986) with the project *Talking about visibility* and Liryc Dela Cruz (Philippines, 1992), with the project *Il Mio Filipino: Invisible Bodies, Neglected Movements* produced during their residency in Torino in 2020.

A shared orientation towards experimentation has led Artissima and Torino Social Impact to create the project with the aim of **widening the range of action of social innovation to contemporary art**. With a focus on multiculturalism, the award sets out to create new relationships and to open unexpected scenarios through the perspective of the winning artists.

## THE WINNERS

**Monia Ben Hamouda** wins the Torino Social Impact Art Award 2021 with ***Adhan to Dora***, a cinema project articulated around a performative narrative, with the objective of portraying the complexities and contradictions of the phenomenon of cultural assimilation. A film contaminating the present through its own origins, to evolve and self-determine, formulating a counter-narrative which does not deny but glorifies.

Against the background of the worksites for the re-naturalization of the **Dora Riparia river**, a performer – a professional singer – will reinterpret the lyrics of *Which Witch* by Florence + the Machine, through the techniques of Islamic devotional singing and its inimitable musical style (emphasized by the use of vocoder and customized digital effects). The performer will try to keep a balance between technical prowess and sensitive lyricism, east and west, paganism and religion, sacred and profane. The song usually has a length of 4 minutes, but in this rendition it is slowed down and lengthened to 15 minutes, creating a particularly evocative and disorienting effect. *Adhan to Dora* sets out to **prompt a comparison between religion and the pagan aesthetic**, to communicate, to fuse languages and bring to light the contradictions which the “first generations” have to face to understand themselves, in a process of self-determination of a new identity.

The **MRZB collective** (Andrea Parenti, Désirée Nakouzi De Monte, Filippo Tocchi, Pietro Cortona) wins the Torino Social Impact Art Award 2021 with the project ***STILI DRAMA XVIII-XXI***. Among the members of the collective, **Désirée Nakouzi De Monte** (1994, IT-LB) will take part in the residency. *STILI DRAMA XVIII-XXI* is part of a project in progress characterized by a fragmentary and episodic production, oriented towards the deconstruction of a **video work** and the compression of the idea of the contemporary city.

The work starts from the intent to approach the process of film production and the language of cinema in a lateral way, focusing on secondary aspects and elements to guide its development horizontally, without internal hierarchies.

While the first episode *STILI DRAMA XVIII-XXI* saw the development of a photographic study and the screenplay of four indoor scenes central for the body of the project, set in a kaleidoscopic and hallucinatory domestic reality, the second episode works on reverse shots, namely the outdoor space (physically the **Lungo Stura** landscapes), where marginality and waste accumulate and the fantastic, horrific, abnormal, hybrid and supernatural proliferate.

## ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

**Monia Ben Hamouda** (Milano, 1991, lives and works in al-Qayrawan and Milano) studied at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, was a visiting professor at Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Dresden and part of the jury at Milan's Filmmaker Festival. She was awarded the Art Business Accelerator Grant, Redline Contemporary Art Center (USA, 2021) and the Special Mention for Contemporary Art at the Premio Ducato (Italy, 2020). Recent exhibitions include: ChertLüdde - Bungalow, Berlin (2021, upcoming); Spazio Pols, Valencia (2021, upcoming); Museo Pecci Prato and 101 Numeri Pari, Roma (2020); ADA, Roma (2020); Galerie Valeria Cetraro, Paris (2019); Alios 16ème Biennale d'Art Contemporain, La Teste-de Bûch (2019); Galleria CC, Malmö (2019); Galleria Et.al, San Francisco (2018); Universitätssammlungen Kunst, Dresden (2017); Milano Film Festival, Milano (2016); Viafarini DOCVA, Milano (2014).

Her practice is primarily based on the exploration of the human condition, especially in its oppressive and traumatic aspects. Her works explore themes such as socio-cultural identity, hassle, anger, and politics. Hamouda's works take inspiration from calligraphy, a fundamental part of Arab culture and of the artist's personal story, with an interest in the power of images, or more precisely in images representing a loss of power. Hamouda defines her work as "ambiguous, angry, at times passive-aggressive, submissive but ready to attack". In the collision of contrasting elements, it exposes the persistent weirdness and the complex symbolism of human feelings. Translating her personal experience of trauma in a wide array of formal approaches, connected to the cultural and religious symbolism of her Muslim family, the artist penetrates on the inside of her ancestors' rituals, enabling access to a private psychological atmosphere and showing how we are all deeply marked and contaminated by the psycho-mental universe of our ancestors.

**MRZB** is an artistic collective based between Turin and Amsterdam. Their practice questions the processual nature of creation as a stacking of tensions and forces.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *STILI DRAMA XVIII-XXI*, Gelateria Sogni di Ghiaccio, Bologna (2021); *Le Stanze di Mauve in ciò che è conosciuto come il Reame dell'Irreale*, Associazione Barriera, Torino (2020); *Pot of Mormorii*, Bologna.cc, Amsterdam (2019); *K\_Night*, Bastione San Maurizio, Torino (2019); *Am I weeping? (DIP dripping floors)*, TRIPLA, Bologna (2018).

Their collaborative and nomadic studio-practice relies on an aesthetic and affective research of what is peripheral, marginal and discarded. It explores a variety of expressive approaches such as sculptural, architectural and urbanistic interventions, installations, textile assemblages, site-specific curatorial projects, writings, text-sound based performances, and object-based works. Departing from a core interest for the abnormal, the research draws on topics such as the marginal, domesticity, decay, the grotesque, folk imaginaries, teen sensibilities, suburbia as repressed psychedelic and hallucinatory cosmos, to traverse the spectres and residues of a centripetal and mass society.

MRZB is Andrea Parenti, Désirée Nakouzi De Monte, Filippo Tocchi, Pietro Cortona.

## THE TUTORS

**Treti Galaxie** is an art project founded by Matteo Mottin and Ramona Ponzini. They work with artists in a broad-based manner, respecting their ideas and projects, and helping them to produce and develop exhibitions in all-round terms. This is why they choose not to have a fixed venue, but to seek out a space each time which is best suited to the project they are working on.

Since March 2016 Treti Galaxie has developed a series of solo exhibitions featuring artists who interact with the hidden urban fabric of Torino, reconfiguring the use of historical sites such as the Mole Antonelliana, the Sala Reale of the Porta Nuova railway station, the Fortezza Sotterranea del Pastiss and the Arcate dell'Ex-MOI, in collaboration with the Museo Nazionale del Cinema di Torino, Grandi Stazioni Rail, Museo Civico Pietro Micca, Parcolimpico, and Acer.

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**Artissima** // The leading international fair of contemporary art in Italy, and one of the ten best in the world thanks to its identity and history, its focus on research, the curatorial dimension and talent scouting.

The artistic direction, the profound knowledge of the evolution of the art market, the organizational and strategic capacities and promotional force of the fair have amplified the perception, over the years, of Artissima as a brand able to produce successful projects together with its partners. For several years now the fair has supported and guided sponsor companies in the creation of special “storytelling” projects to boost media spread and to sustain partners in their positioning.

Artissima is organized by Artissima srl, a company of Fondazione Torino Musei, founded in 2008 to manage the artistic and commercial relationships of the fair. The Artissima brand belongs to Regione Piemonte, Città Metropolitana di Torino and Città di Torino. [www.artissima.it](http://www.artissima.it)

**Torino Social Impact** // The Torino Social Impact platform brings together 140 entities of the Torino metropolitan area (businesses, financial players, service industries, public and private institutions) to reinforce the local ecosystem and make the city one of the best places in the world to experiment with a new way of doing business and finance, pursuing objectives of economic-financial sustainability together with goals of measurable social impact.

Torino Social Impact operates to encourage economically sustainable forms of enterprise aimed at coping with emerging social problems, exploiting new technological opportunities to position Torino on the global map of social impact investments, attracting private investment that can give concrete form to the development of the impact economy in the territory. [www.torinosocialimpact.it](http://www.torinosocialimpact.it)

**Combo** // A hostel of the new generation for travellers and the people of Torino, with the aim of reinventing the rules of low-cost hospitality. A radically new idea of lodging, a place that contains a residence for travellers, a public space with cultural programming and a radio station, inside historic buildings in the liveliest major cities of Italy.

A versatile and contemporary incubator at the service of the arts and culture, to stimulate socializing and to foster contaminations. Combo is a new meeting point between those who visit the city and those who live there: a dynamic, fluid and open location.

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

## **ARTISSIMA - International Fair of Contemporary Art**

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### **Oval, Lingotto Fiere Torino**

**4 November 2021** | preview

**5–7 November 2021** | open to the public

### **Artissima XYZ**

**1–3 November 2021** | preview

**4–9 November 2021** | online

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