



Xing
presents
Riccardo Benassi
Morestalgia

winner of the 5th edition of Italian Council (2019)

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, 10 October > 22 December 2019
Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Melbourne, 5 December 2019 > 28 February 2020
ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe, 6 > 19 January 2020
Live Arts Week/Art City - Bologna Stazione Alta Velocità, 23 > 27 January 2020
Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, February 2020

Xing presents ***Morestalgia*** by **Riccardo Benassi**, one of the winning projects of the 5th edition of Italian Council (2019), a competition conceived by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Art and Architecture and Urban Peripheries – an organism of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, to promote Italian contemporary art in the world.

Morestalgia is an environment based on sound, text and objects that has as pulsating nucleus a LED screen traversable by the human body. The project stems from a research into nostalgia and its social implications in an age where the internet is encroaching into our lives. It will take the form of a multimedia and multi-sensory work: a hyper-designed object. In keeping with Riccardo Benassi's research pathway, it addresses the theme of displays in living spaces and in urban, infrastructural, and behavioral contexts, starting from an analysis that centers around the human being and its interrelations.

Morestalgia will be developed between 2019 and early 2020 in collaboration with several international partners.

The first public appearance in the form of an environmental installation will be at the **Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève** (10 October > 22 December 2019), where the penetrable screen will be in dialogue with the new English version of *Daily Desiderio Domestico*, a media-sculpture in which Riccardo Benassi writes and transmits a text message every day of his life, each message only lasting for 24 hours. In this way the installation space opens up to mutability and transience.

Morestalgia will then move to another European center for art that focuses on the relationship between art and technology, on the occasion of the opening of the **ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe's** 2020 season (6 > 19 January 2020). The techno-curtain, animated by a flow of text, image, sound and light will function as a metaphorical yet fictional threshold between the museum's exhibition space and the research space, highlighting the role of the artwork as a vessel for both aesthetics and content.

In **Bologna** (23 > 27 January 2020) the artwork will appear in a public space, at the *Alta Velocità* Hall in the Bologna train station, welcoming travelers and visitors within the hub of the infrastructure that has changed our way of traveling. For five days the installation will be open from 6 am to midnight during Arte Fiera as a prologue of Live Arts Week IX curated by Xing and as part of Art City Bologna 2020.

Morestalgia will also take the form of performative lecture at the **Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Melbourne** (a place noteworthy also for its history of European migration) where it will be premiered in dialogue with other works created for the occasion. A second performative lecture will be further presented at the **Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin** (February 2020.)

The artwork will be accompanied by a publication and will enter the permanent collection of the **Museion - Museum of modern and contemporary art in Bolzano**.

With the invention of the word "morestalgia" Riccardo Benassi intends to update the concept of nostalgia after the Internet, investigating and cross-referencing different thematic fields such as memory and affects, migration and homesickness, phenomenology and interface design, history and futurology. According to the artist, the neologism "morestalgia" can be defined as "**augmented nostalgia**." This is a specific kind of homesickness, whose sense of pain is similar to that caused by the feeling of envy, a feeling of lack – self-translated as loss – whose direct reference is experienced by others. Morestalgic human beings are those who have the desire to live an experience they have previously understood as a plausible one but who, instead of recalling it from their own past, supplant it with an immersive navigation experience offered by the Web. The artist poses the question: how have social networks and online communities contributed to the unification and normalization of subjective pasts? Can digital empathy become a useful tool to remodel the future rather than creating an alliance around an apparently shared past? In other words, how can we transform a subjective feeling of belonging into a collective future?



Riccardo Benassi's work has distinguished itself as a multidisciplinary approach that focuses on the impact of technology in our daily relation to space, mostly reflecting on how technological devices have radically altered the structures for living and organizing the real, from architecture to politics, to cultural production and consumption.

Benassi often developed collaborations within the last subcultures of the '90s and was, in his early years, a key figure in the European underground music scene. Equally active in the visual field, he employed new media with particular focus on the expressive growth of the millennial generation, and has become an authority on both their theory and implementation. His pieces are the result of an articulate assembly of images, texts, sounds, colors, design objects, and various materials which together form large-scale installations, videos, art books, and sculptural elements. In recent years text has taken an increasingly large place in his productions. His work *Daily Desiderio*, permanently installed in the ArtLine Sculpture Park within Milan's City Life district, is the best example of this. *Daily Desiderio* is a public work, acquired by the city of Milan, that consists of an imaginary bus stop formed by an LED panel in which the artist has committed to write and transmit a new message every day for the rest of his life. When the artist dies the messages will be re-transmitted from the first to the last, maintaining the one-per-day rate.

Riccardo Benassi (Cremona, 1982), lives and works in Berlin. His work has been shown in public and private spaces in Italy and across the globe. Some of his most recent shows include: ICA, Milan (2019); Galleria ZERO..., Milan (2019); Impakt festival, Utrecht (2019); Fondazione del Monte Bologna (2019); MAMbo Bologna (2018); Parc Saint Léger, Guérigny (2018); ArtLine, Milan (2018); ZKM, Karlsruhe (2017); Kunstraum Potsdam, Berlin (2017); Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (solo show) (2016); IIC – Italian Cultural Institute, Paris (solo show) (2016); Collezione Farnesina, Rome (2016); Museo Salvatore Ferragamo, Florence (2016); OCAT, Shanghai (2015); VW Veneklasen/Werner, Berlin (2015); PAC, Milan (2014); Videoex, Zurich (2014); Museo Civico di Castelbuono, Palermo (solo show) (2014); Museion, Bolzano (2014); MAXXI, Rome (2014); Careof Milan (2014); Marsèlleria, Milan (solo show) (2013); GAMC, Ferrara (solo show) (2013); Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle, Berlin (2013); Museo della Triennale, Milan (2012); Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome (2012); Museo Marino Marini, Florence (solo show) (2011); Museo della Permanente, Milan (2011); Prague Biennale, Prague (2011); NCCA, Moscow (2011); CCCS, Florence (2011); MACRO, Rome (solo show) 2010; Ambasciata Italiana, Berlin (2010); Russian Academy of Art, Moscow (2010); 25th Nadezda Petrovic Memorial, Cacak (2010); Radio Arte Mobile, Rome (2010).

Benassi has been working as professor of Sound Design at the Accademia di Belle Arti Carrara in Bergamo since 2013, from 2014 to 2016 he was a professor of Creative Practices at dBs College in Berlin, and has been guest lecturer at NABA in Milan since 2019. He has published: *Lettere dal sedile del passeggero quando nessuno è al volante* (Mousse Publishing 2010), *Briefly, Ballare* (Danilo Montanari 2012), *Attimi Fondamentali* (Mousse Publishing 2012), *Techno Casa* (Errant Bodies 2015) e *Sicilia Bambaataa* (NERO Publishing 2015). www.riccardobenassi.info

Xing is a cultural organization based in Bologna, operating with the purpose of planning, supporting and promoting products and events characterized by an interdisciplinary approach toward the issues of contemporary culture, with particular attention to generational tendencies and new languages.

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