

Press release | Rome, 2 October 2024

Fondazione Pastificio Cerere

*presents*

**Wang Yuxiang**  
***Anche il sole sorge***

Curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Produced with the support of the MiC and SIAE – ‘Per Chi Crea’ programme

Opening: 2 October from 6:30 to 9 pm

3 October to 30 November 2024

**Fondazione Pastificio Cerere**  
Via degli Ausoni 7, Rome

At 6:30 pm on **Wednesday 2 October**, **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** will present in Rome ***Anche il sole sorge***, the solo exhibition of artist **Wang Yuxiang** (Anhui, China, 1997), as curated by artistic director **Marcello Smarrelli**, with a text by **Giuliana Benassi**. The exhibition, which has been produced with the support of the MiC and SIAE as part of ‘Per Chi Crea’, is part of the programme celebrating the Foundation’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will be open to the public from Thursday 3 October to Saturday 30 November 2024.

By mixing elements of Chinese and Mediterranean culture, Wang Yuxiang has developed a personal aesthetic that makes use of highly heterogeneous materials and a formally concise visual language. His works reflect on time, history, memory and the physical value of the materials themselves – the conceptual leitmotif of his research – and arise from a preliminary study of places and contexts to create site-specific ‘visual architectures’.

In dialogue with the space, the artist has created an itinerary for Fondazione Pastificio Cerere in which the works produced – which are connected in various ways with **heat death** – profoundly condition the perception of observers.

As Giuliana Benassi points out in the text accompanying the exhibition: *in Wang Yuxiang’s hands, heat becomes an invisible brush capable of painting on matter, revealing the depths of human existence. In his works, heat acts like an alchemist that transforms, shapes and reveals things, inviting you on an introspective journey through the transformations of matter and spirit.*

The title of the exhibition – *Anche il sole sorge* – is inspired by Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Sun Also Rises*, which was published in New York in 1926. The artist borrows it ironically to evoke the torpor that accompanies the vicissitudes of the novel's protagonists, whose actions take place in the scorching heat of Spain – the setting for a deep dive into the human soul. The author deals with themes such as love, loss and the search for the meaning of life. The characters – each with their own wounds and demons – confront their innermost fragilities and the contradictions of the society in which they live, metaphorically embodying an entropic condition of existence.

The works realised by Wang Yuxiang visually restore the relations between human beings and the environment, investigating the theme of entropic death through **three site-specific interventions** that highlight the functioning of the laws of thermodynamics – showing observers the fluctuating transformation of matter – and exasperate the limits of transformation, composition and dissolution, thus staging a delicate game of balancing life and death.

The first installation visitors come across is entitled *Le rondini* (Swallows) – a work in which the physical world of entropy, linked to heat, merges with that of information. It is a device made using a radio equipped with a long heated antenna that is activated at regular intervals by an electromagnetic induction coil, until the slender rod turns red like a glowing cinder. It is a reference to the ways in which the study of entropy is linked to the world of information and production processes.

This is followed by the installation entitled *Fortuna, buona notte, sorridi ancora una volta, fai girare la tua ruota* (Fortune, good night: smile once more; turn thy wheel) consisting of a large volcanic stone disc held suspended by three fishing rods over a steel and iron vat in which boiling water saturates the room with steam, immersing visitors in an immersive and engaging dimension.

The tour ends in the silos of the former Pastificio Cerere with *La mia testa appesantita, diventa un amo* (My heavy head becomes a hook), a work composed of a tubular quartz heater on which a porcelain sunflower hangs, made using the Burnout (Paper Clay) technique. This process enables organic matter to dissolve through the heat generated during the firing process.

*Anche il sole sorge* is an invitation to question the maximum limit to which human beings are willing to push themselves in their dissonant relationship with nature. Heat becomes a metaphor for conveying a poetic and profound vision of reality, inviting viewers to look beyond appearances and discover how much beauty is concealed in the processes of transformation of matter.

*Through a path designed to experience different forms of entropy, the works in the exhibition,"* Marcello Smarrelli explains, *"investigate the themes of our responsibility towards the environment, the complexity that characterises our information systems, and the irreversibility generated by production processes, prompting you to meditate on our condition as human beings and on the meaning of existence.*

The exhibition is accompanied by a **multidisciplinary talk** designed to explore the themes introduced by Wang Yuxiang's work. Key figures from the fields of philosophy, art and the natural sciences will be invited to take part in the meeting, as part of a collective reflection devoted to disseminating and raising awareness of some of the most pressing issues of our present.

The project is completed by a **programme of guided tours for students** at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, the RUFA-Rome Academy of Fine Arts and La Sapienza University in Rome, as well as Rome's art schools.

With this project, **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere aims at building a space for discussion and exchange** where contemporary art is entrusted with the task of becoming a herald of the most urgent current instances, encouraging people's participation with a view to raising awareness and building new prospects.

**Wang Yuxiang** (Anhui, China, 1997)

Main solo exhibitions:

*Il Conformista*, Shanxi Contemporary Art Museum. Taiyuan, China; *Pensa di Uscire* National Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia, Rome (2023); *RICCHIAMO*, curated by Niccolò Giacomazzi, Spazio Y, Rome; Wang Yu Xiang curated by Graziano Menolascina, PRAC CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART Ponzano Romano (RM) (2022).

Main group exhibitions:

*STATO D'IMPREVISTO*, curated by FUGU PROJECT, Scoletta di San Giovanni Battista in Bragora in Campo Bandiera and Moro, Venice; *My Generation The Art of Post - 90!* curated by Wang Chunchen, Sun Dake, Gu Pinqiao, Jia Qianfan, Shanxi Contemporary Art Museum. Taiyuan, China; *Contestabile. La distanza tra pubblico e privato è di 37 cm*, curated by Niccolò Giacomazzi, Contemporary Cluster, Rome; *So Far So Good*, Mimmo Scognamiglio artecontemporanea, Milan; *BLOOMING GARDEN*, curated by Galleria Valentina Bonomo Rome (2023); *Parallelo Oriente/Occidente*, curated by Graziano Menolascina, Mimmo Scognamiglio artecontemporanea, Milan; *Vacunalìa: il tempo scortese*, curated by Niccolò Giacomazzi and Benedetta Monti, Vacone (RI) (2022); *Inquerciata Vol. IV*, Nuovo Cinema Palazzo, San Lorenzo, Rome (2019).

Awards:

2023: Vinitaly award - Artissima; 'PREMIO YOUNG', best artist under 35 - Roma Arte in Nuvola; 'Prospettiva Insulare', best artist under 35 present at TheOthers2023; Talent Price-Inside Art 2023, 'Premio Speciale Fondazione Cultura e Arte/Sezione Emergenti', Mattatoio, Rome. 2022: Winner of the First Edition of the Todi Biennale, Todi (PG)

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## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening day: 2 October, 6:30 – 9 pm

Dates: 3 October – 30 November 2024

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 3 to 7 pm. Mondays by appointment.

Venue: Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Via degli Ausoni 7 – Rome

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The exhibition *Anche il sole sorge* is organised with the support of the MiC and SIAE, as part of the 'Per Chi Crea' programme

