

Press release | Rome, 1 October 2024

Fondazione Pastificio Cerere

presents

Angels
Cinquant'anni di storie del Pastificio Cerere

Curated by Marcello Smarrelli

Opening: 2 October from 6:30 to 9 pm

3 October to 30 November 2024

Pastificio Cerere Foundation
Via degli Ausoni 7, Rome

On **Wednesday, October 2** at 6:30 pm, **Fondazione Pastificio Cerere** will present, as part of the celebrations for its 20th anniversary, the group exhibition ***Angels. Cinquant'anni di storie del Pastificio Cerere***, as curated by Artistic Director **Marcello Smarrelli**. The exhibition will be open to the public from Thursday, 3 October to Saturday, 30 November 2024.

The Foundation is located in the former Pastificio Cerere, the oldest factory in the San Lorenzo district, which was founded in 1905 and became famous thanks to the work of the artists of the 'Gruppo di San Lorenzo' – Bruno Ceccobelli, Gianni Dessì, Giuseppe Gallo, Nunzio, Pizzi Cannella and Marco Tirelli – who first recognised the potential of this disused location and decided to move their studios there in the 1970s. From that moment on, the progressive conversion of the industrial spaces into ateliers began, transforming the former factory into a landmark of the Roman cultural scene, a forge of interdisciplinary creativity strongly receptive to novelty and the artistic avant-garde, and one of the earliest and most successful examples of urban regeneration.

Fondazione Pastificio Cerere was established in 2004 thanks to President **Flavio Misciattelli**, starting a regular programme with the production of a conspicuous number of exhibitions, projects, and educational activities, transforming it into one of the most lively contemporary venues on the city and international scene.

Angels. Cinquant'anni di storie del Pastificio Cerere is a story in images spanning half a century of cultural history, designed to paint a portrait of the former pasta factory and reconstruct the creative ferment that has characterised it since the 1970s.

The title of the exhibition, **Angels**, is inspired by the famous photographic series of 'angels' (*From Angel series*, 1977; *From a series on Angels*, 1977; *Angels*, 1977-1978) that artist **Francesca Woodman (Denver, 1958 – New York, 1981)** developed between May 1977 and August 1978 in the spaces of the former pasta factory. In some of these shots, the artist portrays herself wearing only a white cotton petticoat, while large sheets of paper in the background evoke the image of white angel wings. Having arrived in Rome thanks to a study programme promoted by the Rhode Island School of Design, Woodman landed at Pastificio Cerere and captured its charm, as dictated by the large architectural volumes and walls marked by time.

"This is almost a visual transposition of the poem 'The Necessary Angel' by Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)," explains Marcello Smarrelli, "in which the famous American writer describes the angel of reality that shows the way to the world. It is necessary because the world only lives again when seen through the lens of poetry and art. By translation, artists are seen as angelic figures, marking the path of humanity and harbouring the extraordinary possibility of flight, but also the tragic and ruinous one of the fall."

The exhibition presents a **narrative of the artists, intellectuals, gallery owners, curators and figures linked to Pastificio Cerere** over time, some for short periods of time, others for longer. The exhibition project, which the curator produced in collaboration with the **STARTT** architecture studio, is divided into different sections designed to interweave past and present, paying homage to the protagonists who have animated the history of Pastificio Cerere.

It is a journey through the works of **Lara Almarcegui, Micol Assaël, Carl Andre & Ana Mendieta, Elisabetta Benassi, Thomas Berra, Patrizia Cavalli, Enzo Cucchi, Tomaso De Luca, Jim Dine, Flavio Favelli, Francesco Fonassi, Claire Fontaine, Corinna Gosmaro, Antony Gromley, David Hammons, Helena Hladilová, Adelita Husni-Bey, Margherita Moscardini, Elsa Peretti, Calixto Ramírez, Fabrizio Sartori, Namsal Siedlecki**, with a special testimony by **Romolo and Rosalba Bulla**.

Giuseppe Stampone is present with the work *Centro tavola con fiori* (2024), an 'emotional' and non-chronological map dedicated to the history of Pastificio Cerere, which the artist created on commission from the Foundation by consulting archives, conducting interviews, and studying the building's axonometries and its architectural relevance in the San Lorenzo district. In the overlapping of memories and narration, portraits of artists, intellectuals, directors, poets who lived in or passed through the building can be recognised.

Four works from the Foundation's permanent collection complete the itinerary: *Fontana Ferma* by **Piero Pizzi Cannella** (2007), *Landscape No. 2* by **Agostino Iacurci** (2021), *Black Hole Sun* by **Riccardo Previdi** (2010) and *Whole Wheat* by **Francesco Simeti** (2010).

A substantial part of the exhibition is made up of precious material from the archives of the six of the Scuola di San Lorenzo and a **rich selection of videos, interviews, exhibition catalogues, articles and archive photographs** that bear witness to the passage of critics and curators such as Achille Bonito Oliva and Martha Boyden, gallery owners such as Pino Casagrande, Fabio Sargentini and Gian Enzo Sperone, and patrons such as Graziella Lonardi Buontempo and Paola Severino.

Many of the documents on display are also works of art created by authors such as **Claudio Abate, Riccardo Abate, Elisabetta Catalano, Ottavio Celestino, Mimmo Capone, Anton Giulio Onofri, Ileana Florescu, Toni Garbasso, Enrico Luzzi, Piero Marsili and Massimo Piersanti**. The visual identity project created by **Giampiero Quaini** is also featured.

The collaboration between the Foundation and A.P.A.- Agenzia Pubblicità Affissioni, which began in 2011 with the aim of spreading contemporary art in the urban context, continues. Over the years, it has involved numerous Italian and foreign artists, which have been invited to design a poster measuring 400x300 cm, the size in use in billboard advertising. For this special occasion, the commission was entrusted to **Numero Cromatico**, which presents *Io vi darei tutto il mio amore*, a work of art composed of a billboard in the Foundation's courtyard – on which a poetic text is represented – and a series of posters in the city, on which the dreams made by the public after reading the poem are featured. The work is part of 'Somnium' (2022-ongoing), a project in which Numero Cromatico engages the audience in a collective dream experience through poetic prompts.

The constant balance between appreciation of the past and tension towards the future is the silver thread that runs through the collective narrative constructed by the exhibition *Angels*, highlighting the constant attention that Pastificio Cerere Foundation has always dedicated to promoting the work of young artists and curators. The exhibition sketches **a cross-section of the history and mission of the Foundation** – a hub of creative production, an incubator of emerging talents that over the years has been able to nurture a continuous dialogue between memory and contemporaneity.

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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

Info: Tel. +39 06 45422960 | info@pastificiocerere.it | www.pastificiocerere.it

ANGELS

Cinquant'anni di storie del Pastificio Cerere

With works by:

Lara Almarcegui
Micol Assaël
Carl Andre & Ana Mendieta
Elisabetta Benassi
Thomas Berra
Patrizia Cavalli
Numero Cromatico
Enzo Cucchi
Tomaso De Luca
Jim Dine
Flavio Favelli
Francesco Fonassi
Claire Fontaine
Corinna Gosmaro
Antony Gromley
David Hammons
Helena Hladilová
Adelita Husni-Bey
Agostino Iacurci
Margherita Moscardini
Elsa Peretti
Piero Pizzi Cannella
Giampiero Quaini
Calixto Ramírez
Fabrizio Sartori
Namsal Siedlecki
Francesco Simeti
Giuseppe Stampone
Francesca Woodman

Collective work:

Domenico Bianchi, Bruno Ceccobelli, Giuseppe Gallo, Claudio Givani

Video and photographs by:

Claudio Abate
Riccardo Abate
Elisabetta Catalano
Ottavio Celestino
Mimmo Capone
Ileana Florescu
Toni Garbasso
Enrico Luzzi
Piero Marsili
Anton Giulio Onofri
Massimo Piersanti
D.A. Puzzutiello

Thanks to:

Claudio Abate Archive, Rome
Elisabetta Catalano Archive, Rome
Central National Library of Rome
Biblioteca Universitaria Alessandrina
MAXXI Art Archive Centre National Museum of 21st Century Arts
Compagnia Teatrale Lombardi Tiezzi, Florence
Fondazione Severino
SpazioA Gallery, Pistoia
T293 Gallery, Rome
Litografia Bulla, Rome
Maurizio Faraoni, Director of the Ugo Ferranti Gallery Archive, Rome
Giuseppe Schillaci
Rai Direzione Teche
Salvatore Puglisi Cosentino
Studio SALES di Norberto Ruggieri, Rome
The Gallery Apart, Rome
The Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, Rome
UNA Galleria, Piacenza

Technical sponsor

