

Art Days unveil the artist winning the open call **Flegreo for the contemporary**: the prize and the residency to Niccolò Moronato

Leisure a workshop inside the Macellum (Pozzuoli/Naples) with the citizens to implement a dreamy minigolf

The work will be toured with special guides from November 24 to 26 and presented by the artist in person on the closing date of the Art Days on November 27

The most relevant news of the second edition of **Art Days** - Napoli Campania (24-27 novembre 2022) has been the institution of **two call for entries dedicated to Italian artist**, with no age constraints, **privileging new art languages**.

[Art Residency - Flegreo for the contemporary](#) is the second prize in the rich parterre of Art Days, aims to involve the Phlegraean community, called to redefine - through the work shared with the artist - its relationship with the **Macellum - Temple of Serapis** site, symbol of the historic center of the city of Pozzuoli. It is **the most built-environment archeology** in the Campi Flegrei cultural district, now incorporated into the urban landscape **to the point of underestimating its importance**.

What is the role that the artist can assume within the **artist / inhabitant / territory relationship**? These are the **three key words** of the **project promoting the development of participatory activities** aiming the **involvement of the resident population** where the creation process becomes the scope of the artistic intervention, to increase the levels of awareness about the cultural heritage and the recognition of values connected to it.

The **Macellum**, commonly known as the **Temple of Serapis**, will be at the center of a path of awareness and creation of meaning. Flegreo for the contemporary wants to invite artists to develop this reflection to **create / re-create that relationship between man and archeology** of which the Macellum is historically the bearer.

Accompanied by an art residency sponsored by the **Anyway Campi Flegrei b&b network** and by a **production award for the work**, the winning artist is **Niccolò Moronato** (Padua, 1985) who will transform *Macellum* in a minigolf for a short time through a workshop with the citizens.

The artist states: 'For some time I have been planning to work in a performative and participatory manner with the space of a Roman ruin. In the *Macellum* - Tempio di Serapide site in Pozzuoli, which I met thanks to the open call of the Art Days - Flegreo for the contemporary, I see the possibility of realizing a long cherished project. *Leisure* (from the English 'free time', 'fun'), plays with the natural space created within the site. It is configured as a spatial and participatory operation that confronts, exasperating it, with the contemporary tendency to re-evaluate or make accessible the forgotten places of history (or even of everyday life) by transforming them into entertainment objects. As if there was no other way to bring people closer to places of historical heritage, other than by making them become tourists in their own city. *Leisure* also thinks about the space itself in which the *Macellum* stands and uses it as a paradoxical place for entertainment. However, there is a common thread that goes beyond the simple contrast: the *Macellum*, in fact, was a commercial place, as much as entertainment is also a commercial force, so present in our cities as to shape the public spaces, the rhythms, even in some cases the identities. The research on the landscape that I have been carrying out for about two years using aesthetic elements of golf and minigolf, allows me to highlight this friction even more because it allows two very strong symbols to unite in an apparently peaceful and enjoyable way, but deeply violent from a conceptual point of view. The *Macellum* has a landmark status, just as the golf area also becomes a sort of landmark after being artificially transformed. The aesthetics and playful practice of minigolf will therefore allow me to work with a very transversal audience, which will take part in the performative moments but which at the same time will be able to reflect on all the other potential uses that could be made of that space, for example during an imaginative workshop based on the drawing to be carried out at the archaeological site.'

An exceptional **jury** selecting applications from the whole country awarded Moronato. It is composed by the **Art Days** - Napoli Campania team (**Martina Campese, Raffaella Ferraro, Letizia Mari, Valeria Bevilacqua**), by the **Aporema O.N.L.U.S.** one (**Antonio Manzoni** and **Daniela Politelli**), by **Fabio Frasca**, the millennial collector founder of the homonymous collection, by the **Head** of culture and foreground of the **Corriere della Sera** (ed. Del Mezzogiorno) **Mirella Armiero**, by the **Director of the Archaeological Park of Campi Flegrei, Fabio Pagano**.

The production prize offered to the artist has been sponsored by **Rossi - Studio Legale Tributario**.

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