

COMP(H)OST

#6

STORIES FROM THE
END OF THE WORLD

*Laura Pugno, Matteo De Giuli
and Nicolò Porcelluzzi*

CASTELLO DI RIVOLI
Museo d'Arte Contemporanea
Youtube Channel

23 JUNE 2020

Live streaming, h 6.30 pm

After the last appointment with philosopher Emanuele Coccia, the program of the COMP(H)OST project resumes online with a new cycle of meetings and an evening of live music. Starting on 23 June with a live streaming scheduled for four weeks, artists, musicians, composers, scholars and writers will alternate on the Castello di Rivoli YouTube channel each Tuesday. This will create an opportunity to experiment with innovative formats and address the issues of hybridization and mixture from a technological, biological and social point of view, exploring new forms of public interaction and exchange.

Glaciers evaporating, zoonotic pandemics and economic crises: society and nature merge in a future that we cannot know. What stories can tell the new stories?

In the first appointment of the new digital program of COMP(H)OST, this will be at the heart of the conversation between Matteo De Giuli and Nicolò Porcelluzzi, co-authors of MEDUSA - a newsletter on climate and cultural changes, and writer Laura Pugno. They will talk about the environment and human beings, trying to understand what these words correspond to, and in what way they communicate. The answers within our reach change over the years, depending on the culture, politics and sensitivity of the time.

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Today our impact on Earth is so pervasive that human beings can be considered a true geological force: but in what language does a geological force speak? In recent decades many of the theorists of this language - writers, communicators, and artists in general - have preferred to ignore this duty. Over time, Nature was confined to Science, and barred from Culture. The abyss that today separates nature and culture is the result of one of the original impulses of modernity: a division and an estrangement that led to the detachment of writers from scientific issues, of intellectuals from climate issues and, consequently, of scientists from the cultural debate.

For millennia, however, since we started living on this planet, telling stories has proven to be the best strategy to transmit the so-called shared knowledge, so, the instructions on how to use life - how to live in harmony, longer, mixed with the non-human. But can the love for the life that surrounds us be enough, when the world's matrix is by now polluting? Will telling stories be enough to survive?

The future of our literature will answer these questions, trying to mix the invisible with the macroscopic, to shed light on the networks between organic and inorganic, animals and plants, humans and new ideas.

BIOGRAPHIES

Laura Pugno is the author of poetry, prose, essays and theatrical pieces. Among her latest books, the novels *La metà del bosco* and *La ragazza selvaggia* (Marsilio, 2018 and 2016), the essay *In territorio selvaggio* (Nottetempo, 2018), and the poetry collections *L'alea* (Perrone, 2019) and *I legni* (Pordenonelegge, 2018).

She won the Premio Campiello's Literature Selection, the Premio Frignano for Narrative, the Premio Dedalus, the Libro del Mare and the Premio Scrivere Cinema for screenplays. She has taught translation at Rome's La Sapienza University and translated nearly a dozen novels and essays from English and French. She collaborates with "L'Espresso" and other newspapers and magazines, and since 2015 she has directed the Italian Cultural Institute of Madrid, where she created the diffused poetry and writing Festival I quattro elementi.

MEDUSA is a bi-weekly newsletter that deals with the Anthropocene, with humankind's footprint on the planet, with climate and cultural change, created and written by Matteo De Giuli and Nicolò Porcelluzzi. Matteo De Giuli is a scientific journalist and editor of "il Tascabile", the cultural magazine of Treccani. He has collaborated with Radio3 Rai, "Not", "National Geographic", "Il Venerdì di Repubblica". Nicolò Porcelluzzi is an editor of "il Tascabile", and has written for "Internazionale", "L'Ultimo Uomo", "Not" and other magazines. He was the editor of "Useless" literary magazine.

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Due to the Covid-19 emergency, the COMP(H)OST program is being streamed live starting 23 June on the Castello di Rivoli YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/c/CastellodiRivoliMuseodArteContemporanea

COMP(H)OST is a project produced by a.titolo, NERO and the Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, in collaboration with the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam, and is supported by Compagnia di San Paolo as part of the call "ORA! Produzioni di Cultura Contemporanea", with the contribution of Regione Piemonte, the hospitality of Duparc Contemporary Suites and the collaboration of Film Commission Torino Piemonte.

COMP(H)OST is based on an idea from Marianna Vecellio and Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy, and it is curated by Francesca Comisso and Luisa Perlo for a.titolo, Marianna Vecellio for the Castello di Rivoli, Lorenzo Gigotti, Valerio Mannucci and Valerio Mattioli for NERO.

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WHAT IS COMP(H)OST

COMP(H)OST is a project in which the notion of composting meets the one of hospitality. With its references to the concepts of soil, waste and fertility, compost is a place of mixture and constant transformation between states of matter, of alliances between forms of life, in which “similar” and “different” are co-present in a condition of vitality and growth.

Inspired by the compost notion developed by philosopher and biologist Donna Haraway in her texts, the formula of comp(h)ost proposed in this project takes on two complementary nuances: an organic one, which concerns ecological issues in all their various articulations, and a social one, which examines the political and economic problems of our time. In this dual variation, the project explores directions of artistic research and contemporary thought that in the light of current emergencies provide visions and productive suggestions of new scenarios and possible new life practices.

By evoking the generative and fertilizing power of the guest, COMP(H)OST starts from the figure of the artist as an embodiment of mobility, of “extraneousness” and as an essential element for the triggering of processes, in order to reactivate their function as investigators about the themes of cohabitation, ties, cooperation, cohabitation and the relationship between nature and artifice, between waste and resource, between what is and what could be.

For this purpose, COMP(H)OST involves the artists Claire Pentecost, Rossella Biscotti and Otobong Nkanga, in the production of performances and workshops conceived specifically for the project, as part of a programme of seminars, conferences, panel discussions, talks and live performances that since July 2019 has already hosted, among others, the Dutch artists and designers Metahaven in conversation with the curator Leonardo Dellanoce, Diann Bauer, artist and co-founder of the xenofeminist collective Laboria Cuboniks, philosophers Vinciane Despret and Emanuele Coccia.

COMP(H)OST declines the notions of hospitality and compost, as an expression of exchange, synergy and mixture, in the very structure of the project, which is realized through an engagement of the city and its territory. People, stories, places, planning and skills are involved in the development of the research and projects of the invited artists, in order to establish new connections and give the audience a chance to learn about contexts and knowledge that are sometimes not very well known outside of their fields of specialization. In this perspective, COMP(H)OST involved so far experts, artists, and realities such as the PAV - Parco Arte Vivente, the non-profit organization COORPI Coordinamento Danza Piemonte, and the new Circolo del Design.

COMP(H)OST is also a Communication Laboratory, headed by filmmaker Irene Dionisio and photographer Francesca Cirilli, for the production of audiovisual and photographic documentation and story-telling of and on the project. Started in May 2019, the Laboratory of COMP(H)OST was hosted at the Film Commission Torino Piemonte and involves a group of young artists, photographers and filmmakers, selected through a call for proposals, composed by Daniele Alef Grillo, Laura Barrios, Michela Curti, Matteo Grasso, Federico Pozuelo, Isabella Quaranta, Michela Ronco, Giovanni Sambo, Francesca Ticca, Giulia Travaglio, Ettore Ventura and Carla Vivalda.

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