



COMP(H)OST

#7

CHTHULUCENE.
STAYING WITH
THE TROUBLE

Clara Ciccioni and Miriam Tola

CASTELLO DI RIVOLI
Museo d'Arte Contemporanea
Youtube Channel

30 JUNE 2020
Live streaming, h 6.30 pm

The second appointment of the new programming of DIGITAL COMP(H)OST, which is being streamed live every Tuesday until 14 July on the Castello di Rivoli's YouTube channel, is dedicated to the feminist, zoologist and biologist philosopher Donna Haraway, a central figure in the evolution of critical thinking about nature, science and technology, whose theories inspired this project.

What happens when humankind, after having irreparably altered the planet's balances, stops being at the center of the world? What relationships can be recovered not only between human individuals, but also between all the entities that inhabit the planet - animals, but also environments, bacteria, viruses?

Starting from these questions, Donna Haraway conceived the notion of *Chthulucene*, which she discusses in her book, *Staying with the Trouble. Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, published in Italy by NERO (*Chthulucene. Sopravvivere su un pianeta infetto*, 2019), which affirmed its relevance in the moment when, in the midst of a global ecological crisis connected to climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic made its appearance.

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Clara Ciccioni, NERO editor and translator of the book (together with Claudia Durastanti), and Miriam Tola of the University of Lausanne, will present her work and her thought during the seventh appointment of COMP(H)OST.

“Cure”, “symptoieis”, “becoming-with”, “immune system”, “companion species”, “compost”, are some of the concepts around which Donna Haraway’s thought centers with regards to the urgency of developing tools to re-think this era on the verge of planetary disaster, which is often referred to as Anthropocene or Capitalocene. These terms, by placing humans at the center of the historical processes that affect Earth, are not able to represent and deal with their complexity and with the nature of the multispecies tentacular relationships that structure life and death on our planet.

“Chthulucene”, she writes, “must collect up the trash of the Anthropocene, the exterminism of the Capitalocene, and chipping and shredding and layering like a mad gardener, make a much hotter compost pile for still possible pasts, presents, and futures”.

BIOGRAPHIES

CLARA CICCIONI has a PhD in History and Social Sciences and is an independent researcher. Her interests focus on communication and media, cultural studies, epistemology and philosophy of science. She has collaborated as editor and translator with various Italian publishers. She is editor of the Not series by NERO Editions.

MIRIAM TOLA is a trans/feminist activist and professor of Environmental Humanities at the University of Lausanne. She studies the intersections between gender, race, sexuality and the politics of nature, and has published many articles on the imagination of the Anthropocene, on commoning processes and the rights of nature. She has taught at the Northeastern University of Boston and worked as a journalist in Italy and the United States.

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

www.youtube.com/c/CastellodiRivoliMuseodArteContemporanea

Artists, musicians, composers, scholars and writers will alternate in the new digital program. 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.

See the complete program until 14 July at:

<https://www.castellodirivoli.org/digital-comphost>

Started with the LIVING MATTERS project conceived by US artist Claire Pentecost, and continued with the contributions of the philosophers Vinciane Despret and Emanuele Coccia, and artists Metahaven and Diann Bauer, COMP(H)OST will draw to an end in the Autumn.

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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