

# COMP(H)OST

## #9

CAMP(VS)HOST. FOR A NEW  
GRAMMAR OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Francesco Careri, Lorenzo Romito,  
Sandi Hilal, Sébastien Thiery,  
Maurizio Cilli and Stefano Mirti*

CASTELLO DI RIVOLI  
Museo d'Arte Contemporanea  
Youtube Channel

14 JULY 2020

Live streaming, h 6 pm

What does the term hospitality mean? What is the relationship between those who host and are hosted? How does the reciprocity that the Italian language assigns to this relationship – to the point of using a single word for both –, survive and manifest itself in current practices?

These and other issues, crucial considering the worsening conditions of social injustice, marginality and poverty diffused at all levels, from the local ones of urban peripheries to the global one of migrant populations, are addressed in a seminar conducted by Francesco Careri with the participation of Lorenzo Romito, of Palestinian artist Sandi Hilal, of French political scientist Sébastien Thiery, of Maurizio Cilli and Stefano Mirti, who will discuss hospitality practices between art, architecture and activism.

Putting the notion of hospitality at the heart of the discussion at the heart of the discussion means to start from the figures par excellence of otherness, who are such due to their identity and for social, cultural and economic reasons. A position and role also played by artists in their ability to subvert the order of things and identify new connections, to trigger generative processes by prefiguring practices and productive

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suggestions for new possible ways of existence, as suggested by the metaphor of “compost” developed by philosopher Donna Haraway, here assumed in its social dimension.

CAMP(VS)HOST therefore suggests a new focus: from reading places in relation to the social practices that take place there, to the practices themselves and their dynamics, balances and criticalities, in the context of urban spaces seen as a “commonplace” where forms of living multiply and different conditions of belonging, exclusion and antagonism come to the surface, questioning the political, social and cultural role of institutions, citizenship and communities.

## BIOGRAPHIES

FRANCESCO CARERI and LORENZO ROMITO are co-founders of Stalker. Since 1995 they have been developing practices that question ways of living and the city in its residual and peripheral conditions, on the crossroad between artistic experimentation, theoretical reflection and civil and political action. Among the most emblematic works of Stalker is the *Ararat* project with Kurdish refugees at Campo Boario in Rome (1999-2007). Among their most recent projects, C.I.R.C.O. Casa Irrinunciabile per la Riconoscenza Civica e l’Ospitalità, curated by Francesco Careri for the course of Civic Arts of Roma Tre University and BURB, the Urban Biennial developed from the collaboration of Lorenzo Romito and Giulia Fiocca with the urban planners Andrea Curtoni and Giulia Mazzorin of the IUAV of Venice.

SANDIHILAL is an artist, architect, researcher and author of experimental education programs. With Alessandro Petti she founded Campus in the Camps in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Bethlehem and co-directs DAAR Decolonizing Architecture and Art Residency. In Sweden, in 2016, with a refugee community she started the *Al Madafeh / Living Room* project focused on the right to host.

SÉBASTIEN THIERY is a political scientist and member of the editorial board of the magazine “Multitudes”. In 2012, he founded PEROU, the Pôle d’Exploration des Ressources Urbaines, with Gilles Clément. He has published numerous books and is currently a scholarship holder at the Academy of France – Villa Medici in Rome where he is working on the candidacy of the hospitality act as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

MAURIZIO CILLI is an architect and artist who experiments with interpretation interventions of the transformation phenomena in territories. In 2020 he published *Senza casa senza cosa*, from a study launched at the Triennale in the exhibition 999 domande sull’abitare contemporaneo curated by Stefano Mirti, with whom he curated *Bottom Up!*, the most recent edition of the Turin Architecture Festival. STEFANO MIRTI is an architect and a designer, one of the greatest experts in Interaction Design in Italy. Co-founder of Id-lab, he has always been teaching and is director of the Scuola Superiore d’Arte Applicata in Milan.

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COMP(H)OST events are streamed live on the Castello di Rivoli YouTube channel:

**[www.youtube.com/c/CastellodiRivoliMuseodArteContemporanea](http://www.youtube.com/c/CastellodiRivoliMuseodArteContemporanea)**

Started in 2019 with the project LIVING MATTERS by Claire Pentecost, and continued thanks to the contribution of philosophers Vinciane Despret and Emanuele Coccia, of artists Diann Bauer and Metahaven in dialogue with curator Leonardo Dellanoce, on 23 June COMP(H)OST resumed in a digital format with a series new guests and new appointments that will continue into the Autumn.

See the complete program until 14 July at:

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

The documentation of previous COMP(H)OST events can be accessed online at:

**<http://comphost-project.com/>**

and in the Castello di Rivoli Digital Cosmos:

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

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 Fondazione 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 Sofia 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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