

**Dates:** November 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>th</sup>

**Exhibition Opening:** November 18h at 7pm until 9pm mandatory reservation

**Gallery opening** from November 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> from 4pm to 8pm

November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm to 5pm

## Art for Change towards the Art of Demopraxia

**Artists:** Third Paradise project of Michelangelo Pistoletto and Cittadellarte in collaboration with Visible Project

**Curated by:** Savina Tarsitano

In occasion of the Loop Festival, City Screen, Espronceda – Institute of Art & Culture is honoured to present the exhibition: **Art for Social Change Toward the Art of Demopraxia** curated by Savina Tarsitano, based on the Third Paradise/Rebirth project of Michelangelo Pistoletto and Cittadellarte in collaboration with the Visible Project. The exhibition will bring together the best artistic practices of social transformation that are significant, strong and in full coherence with the Third Paradise, art and creative projects and Demopraxia. In this direction the project will involve the artists of the *Visible Project* which, produces and sustains socially engaged artistic projects in a global context by Cittadellarte/Fondazione Pistoletto and Fondazione Zegna. In 2019 Espronceda has been honoured to be one of the satellites of the 2019 Visible Award Temporary Parliament at the Council room of the Hôtel de Ville of Paris. We truly believe, nowadays, on the importance of a deep reflection of the role of art and the artists in our society, particularly during this difficult period of Pandemic/Covid19, where more solidarity is demanded. We have the responsibility to work together, to collaborate, to rethink and to redesign, to take care of our planet, where Art has a key role for a better and sustainable world. This is reflected in the philosophy and commitment of the artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, in which he continues to invite us to save and take care of our world.

The exhibition will showcase videos of Demopraxia of Cittadellarte from Bali, Melbourne, Cuba and the videos of the three editions of the Visible Project winners. (2015, 2017, 2019): **Blank Noise**, a project by Jasmeen Patheja developed in India, 2019 Visible recipient; **Brigada Puerta de Tierra**, a project by Jesús Bubu Negrón and Luis Agosto-Leduc in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2017 Visible recipient, **Salt**, a project by Karrabing Film Collective in the Northern Territories, Australia, 2015 Visible recipient.

LOOP Barcelona <http://loop-barcelona.com/es/loop-festival-2020/city-screen-2020/>

## THE ART OF THE DEMOPRAXIA

This post-ideological era of ours arises from the realization that the system of representation of the people through political parties has not fulfilled the promise of full democracy. The word democracy derives from the Greek words *demos* (people) and *kratos* (government, power) and means power of the people. But the people consist of a large number of individuals who, separately from one another, cannot exercise power. How can individuals be united so that the people are able to exercise power, bypassing the political parties? Through the Art of Demopraxy (footnote 1), in which the term *praxis*, that means practice, replaces the term *kratos*, power. How can this shift from party-political ideology to the practice of democracy be made?

It is time for us to take full account of the fact that people are already united in the organizations that make up society: associations, foundations, companies, public and private bodies, commercial enterprises and nonprofit institutions, consortia, committees, clubs, work teams and every other form of organized collaboration. In fact people spend hours, days and years in them, and every day make choices and decisions that have a concrete impact on their life as workers, entrepreneurs, suppliers, customers, partners, supporters and members of a family. Every organization is already in itself a micro-government or a micro-parliament, spread around the social fabric. The practices that are carried out in it are *de facto* exercises of power.

The function of Demopraxy is to make these organizations visible and conscious of their role and to connect up their practices to form systems of government in which the whole of society really is involved. The method that Cittadellarte is experimenting with makes it possible for organizations to participate actively in way that, if it were extended to the whole of society, would make government by the people feasible.

## THIRD PARADISE

It is the fusion between the first and second paradise. The first is the paradise in which humans were fully integrated into **nature**. The second is the **artificial** paradise, developed by human intelligence to globalizing proportions through science and technology. This paradise is made of artificial needs, artificial products, artificial comforts, artificial pleasures, and every other form of artifice. Humankind has created a truly artificial world which has triggered, in an exponential manner and in parallel with beneficial effects, irreversible processes of decline and consumption of the natural world. The Third Paradise is the third phase of humanity, realized as a **balanced connection between artifice and nature**. The Third Paradise is the passage to a new level of planetary civilization, essential to ensure the survival of the human race. To this purpose we first need to re-form the principles and the ethical behaviours guiding our common life. The Third Paradise is the great myth that leads everyone to take personal responsibility in the global vision. The term "paradise" comes from the Ancient Persian and means "protected garden". We are the gardeners who must protect this planet and heal the human society inhabiting it. The symbol of the Third Paradise, **a reconfiguration of the mathematical infinity sign**, is made of three consecutive circles. The two external circles represent all the diversities and antinomies, among which nature and artifice. The central one is given by the compenetration of the opposite circles and represents the generative womb of a new humanity.

*Michelangelo Pistoletto, 2003*

The Third Paradise assumes a concrete and operative form through the activities of Cittadellarte and its global network (made of Embassies, Forums and Working Sites, and hundreds of partners), and the best practices presented in Geographies of Change.

## VISIBLE PROJECT

The project created by Cittadellarte–Fondazione Pistoletto and Fondazione Zegna is a project that researches, produces and sustains socially engaged artistic practices in a global context. Curated since its start in 2010 by Judith Wielander and Matteo Lucchetti, Visible is looking for art projects that consider the social body as a potential for bringing about responsible transformation: artists who initiate long-term processes dealing with environmental issues, alternative economies, indigenous rights, new

pedagogical models, migration, and displacements, among the many other urgencies of our times. Visible's name comes from the need to make visible the invisible artistic strategies that are daily applying their creative acts towards the common good in society. Visible also allude to how artists are able to change the frames, speeds, and scales, through which we perceive the visible reality, and expand our horizons on what we consider our reality to be and look like. From 2011 to 2019 Visible has organized the Visible Award, the first European Award for Socially Engaged Art, researching on over 200 projects across the globe, collaborating with over 150 curators, and inventing the format of the Temporary Parliament. A democratic exercise in sharing with the public a decision-making process that involved prestigious art institutions such as Tate Modern, Serpentine Galleries, Van Abbemuseum, or Queens Museum, and actual parliaments such as the Paris' Hotel de Ville and the City Council of Liverpool. Starting from 2020 Visible is inaugurating a new format expanding the support to socially engaged projects beyond the logic of the Award, that is officially terminated in 2019. Starting from 2021 Visible envisions a series of situated fellowships for ongoing long term socially engaged art practices, tailored to the projects' needs and context, to offer more structural support to artists that are dedicating part of their research and practice to experimental artistic ideas and actions with an impact on our societies. Visible will assign every two years 6 fellowships of 25.000 euro to artistic projects that engage with complex processes of social transformation. This can involve approaches to rural and urban contexts, ecological imperatives, bringing into question models of education and structured relations of race, gender and sexuality, developing alternative pedagogies, putting into practice different economic models and modes of distribution of resources, broadening access to information, as well as experimenting with participatory modes of political engagement. The fellowship will support artists to implement and develop their practices through interdisciplinary exchanges with other fields of knowledge, acknowledging their embeddedness in diverse local ecologies, connecting them to trans local networks of knowledge production and mentorship. The fellowships are conceived to support socially engaged artistic practices in their specific contexts as well as within networks of international relationship and knowledge exchange. A nomadic institution, Visible has worked with a variety of formats, such as exhibitions, performances, conferences, screening programs, educational activities, in collaboration with institutions like Tate Liverpool; Creative Time, New York; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Kunsthaus Graz; Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco; Center for Historical Reenactments, Johannesburg; and the Serpentine Galleries, London. Visible was part of the Extended Network of Public Art Producers (ENPAP), a network of institutions including Situations (Bristol, United Kingdom), Statens Konstråd/Public Art Agency (Stockholm, Sweden), and Creative Time (New York).

VISIBLE PROJECT <https://www.visibleproject.org/>  
CITTADELLARTE <http://www.cittadellarte.it/>

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