



Xing/Live Arts Week
presents

Riccardo Benassi
Morestalgia

winner of the 5th edition of Italian Council (2019)
main project ART CITY Bologna 2020 on the occasion of Arte Fiera

Italian première
opening Thursday 23 January 2020, 8.30 pm >12 am
coffee with the artist Saturday 25 January 2020, 11 am
24>27 January 2020, 6 am >11.30 pm
Bologna Centrale train station – Hall Alta Velocità (-4 floor)

Xing presents ***Morestalgia*** by **Riccardo Benassi**, a project supported by the **Italian Council** (5th Edition, 2019) program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity and Urban Regeneration of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

Morestalgia is an environment based on sound, text and objects that has as pulsating nucleus a LED screen traversable by the human body. The project stems from a research into nostalgia and its social implications in an age where the internet is encroaching into our lives. It will take the form of a multimedia and multi-sensory work: a hyper-designed object. In keeping with Riccardo Benassi's research pathway, it addresses the theme of displays in living spaces and in urban, infrastructural, and behavioral contexts, starting from an analysis that centers around the human being and its interrelations.

The techno-curtain of ***Morestalgia*** will appear in Bologna **from 23 to 27 January 2020**, in the underground space of the **Alta Velocità Hall in the Bologna train station**, the hub of the infrastructure that has changed our way of traveling. After the opening, that will take place on 23 January 2020 (from 8.30 pm to 12 am), the installation will welcome travelers and visitors for the following four days (from 6 am to 11.30 pm) and it will also offer a prologue of **Live Arts Week IX**, that will be held from 26 March to 4 April 2020. ***Morestalgia*** is part of the main projects of **ART CITY Bologna 2020** on the occasion of ARTE FIERA.

With the invention of the word "morestalgia" Riccardo Benassi intends to update the concept of nostalgia after the Internet, investigating and cross-referencing different thematic fields such as memory and affects, migration and homesickness, phenomenology and interface design, history and futurology.

It can be also defined as "**augmented nostalgia**": a specific kind of homesickness, whose sense of pain is similar to that caused by the feeling of envy, a feeling of lack – self-translated as loss – whose direct reference is experienced by others. Morestalgic human beings are those who have the desire to live an experience they have previously understood as a plausible one but who, instead of recalling it from their own past, supplant it with an immersive navigation experience offered by the Web. The artist poses the question: *how have social networks and online communities contributed to the unification and normalization of subjective pasts? Can digital empathy become a useful tool to remodel the future rather than creating an alliance around an apparently shared past? In other words, how can we transform a subjective feeling of belonging into a collective future?*

Riccardo Benassi's work has distinguished itself as a multidisciplinary approach that focuses on the impact of technology in our daily relation to space, mostly reflecting on how technological devices have radically altered the structures for living and organizing the real, from architecture to politics, to cultural production and consumption. Benassi often developed collaborations within the last subcultures of the '90s and was, in his early years, a key figure in the European underground music scene. Equally active in the visual field, he employed new media with particular focus on the expressive growth of the millennial generation, and has become an authority on both their theory and implementation. His pieces are the result of an articulate assembly of images, texts, sounds, colors, design objects, and various materials which together form large-scale installations, videos, art books, and sculptural elements. In recent years text has taken an increasingly large place in his productions. His work *Daily Desiderio*, permanently installed in the ArtLine Sculpture Park within Milan's City Life district, is the best example of this. *Daily Desiderio* is a public work, acquired by the city of Milan, that consists of an imaginary bus stop formed by an LED panel in which the artist has committed to write and transmit a new message every day for the rest of his life. When the artist dies the messages will be re-transmitted from the first to the last, maintaining the one-per-day rate.

Morestalgia is being developed between 2019 and early 2020 in collaboration with several international partners. The installation has been on display in two European centers that focuses on the relationship between art and technology: after being on show at Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève it moved to ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien of Karlsruhe on the occasion of the opening of the museum's 2020 season. It also takes the form of performative lecture at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Melbourne - a place noteworthy also for its history of European migration - where it was premiered in dialogue with other works created for the occasion, at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin and on the occasion of Live Arts Week in Bologna. The work will be accompanied by a publication edited by NERO and will enter the permanent collection of the Museion - Museum of modern and contemporary art in Bolzano.



Riccardo Benassi (Cremona, 1982), lives and works in Berlin. His work has been shown in public and private spaces in Italy and across the globe. Some of his most recent shows include: ICA, Milan (2019); Galleria ZERO..., Milan (2019); Impakt festival, Utrecht (2019); Fondazione del Monte Bologna (2019); MAMbo Bologna (2018); Parc Saint Léger, Guérigny (2018); ArtLine, Milan (2018); ZKM, Karlsruhe (2017); Kunstraum Potsdam, Berlin (2017); Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (solo show) (2016); IIC - Italian Cultural Institute, Paris (solo show) (2016); Collezione Farnesina, Rome (2016); Museo Salvatore Ferragamo, Florence (2016); OCAT, Shanghai (2015); VW Veneklasen/Werner, Berlin (2015); PAC, Milan (2014); Videoex, Zurich (2014); Museo Civico di Castelbuono, Palermo (solo show) (2014); Museion, Bolzano (2014); MAXXI, Rome (2014); Careof Milan (2014); Marsèlleria, Milan (solo show) (2013); GAMC, Ferrara (solo show) (2013); Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle, Berlin (2013); Museo della Triennale, Milan (2012); Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome (2012); Museo Marino Marini, Florence (solo show) (2011); Museo della Permanente, Milan (2011); Prague Biennale, Prague (2011); NCCA, Moscow (2011); CCCS, Florence (2011); MACRO, Rome (solo show) 2010; Ambasciata Italiana, Berlin (2010); Russian Academy of Art, Moscow (2010); 25th Nadezda Petrovic Memorial, Cacak (2010); Radio Arte Mobile, Rome (2010). Benassi has been working as professor of Sound Design at the Accademia di Belle Arti Carrara in Bergamo since 2013, from 2014 to 2016 he was a professor of Creative Practices at dBs College in Berlin, and has been guest lecturer at NABA in Milan since 2019. He has published: *Lettere dal sedile del passeggero quando nessuno è al volante* (Mousse Publishing 2010), *Briefly, Ballare* (Danilo Montanari 2012), *Attimi Fondamentali* (Mousse Publishing 2012), *Techno Casa* (Errant Bodies 2015) and *Sicilia Bambaataa* (NERO Publishing 2015).
www.riccardobenassi.info

Xing is a cultural organization based in Bologna, operating with the purpose of planning, supporting and promoting products and events characterized by an interdisciplinary approach toward the issues of contemporary culture, with particular attention to generational tendencies and new languages.
www.xing.it

Live Arts Week is an annual event focused on live arts. It presents a heterogeneous programme of live works that revolves around the presence and perceptual experience of bodies, movements, sounds and visions. Each edition connects aesthetic tensions and practices representing the contemporary world, with a program of live works (performances, situations, environments and concerts, with unique dates, productions and previews) presented by important personalities in the international and contemporary research scene.
www.liveartsweek.it

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Riccardo Benassi. Morestalgia

Where

Bologna Centrale – Hall Alta Velocità (-4 floor)
Access from Piazza delle Medaglie d'Oro and Via de' Carracci
Follow for platforms 17 and 18

When

opening: Thursday 23 January 2020, 8.30 pm > 12 am
meeting and coffee with the artist: Saturday 25 January 2020, 11 am
opening hours: Friday 24 January – Monday 27 January 2020, 6 am > 11.30 pm

Free admission

Info

info@xing.it
xing.it www.artcity.bologna.it www.liveartsweek.it
facebook.com/xing.it twitter.com/liveartsweek

Press kit

http://bit.ly/presskit_RB_Morestalgia_Bologna

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Hashtag

#ArtCityBologna
#MIBACT #CreativitaContemporanea #ItalianCouncil #ContemporaryItalianArt



Morestalgia 2019>2020

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, 10 October > 22 December 2019

www.centre.ch

Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Melbourne, 5 December 2019 > 28 February 2020

www.iicmelbourne.esteri.it

ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe, 6 > 19 January 2020

www.zkm.de

Live Arts Week/ART CITY Bologna 2020, Bologna Centrale - Hall Alta Velocità, 23 > 27 January 2020

xing.it www.artcity.bologna.it www.liveartsweek.it

Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, 12 February 2020 (by invitation only)

www.bethanien.de

Live Arts Week, Bologna, 28 March 2020

www.liveartsweek.it

Museion - Museo d'arte moderna e contemporanea di Bolzano

www.museion.it

Italian Council

www.aap.beniculturali.it/italiancouncil_r.html

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