



Xing presents
Riccardo Benassi. *Morestalgia*
NERO Editions

book e-launch

from Thursday 9 July 2020

as part of *Words* – 5th floor – Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva

Saturday 18 July 2020

Santarcangelo Festival 2020, in collaboration with Live Arts Week

Wednesday 22 July 2020

Triennale Estate, Milan, as part of *Ultradim*, curated by Davide Giannella

The neologism **Morestalgia** provides the title for the work with which **Riccardo Benassi** explores how the feeling of nostalgia has changed since the internet became part of our lives.

The project - made possible thanks to the support of the **Italian Council** (5th Edition) - was presented in the form of an installation environment and lecture-performance in various public and museum spaces during the course of last year. Now, the text at the centre of the work has been collected and expanded into a **paperback** published by **NERO Editions** and produced by **Xing**.

To coincide with the book's release, *Morestalgia* will take the new form of a book e-launch, in this period of insurmountable physical distancing. It will be a performative presentation of the text: the artist's action adapts to the developments of facts and information, accelerating the movements that digital platforms have accustomed us to. He experiments with a gestured thought that broadens the scope of reflection of a media theory/media lyricism born just before this new era.

Connecting remotely from Berlin, Riccardo Benassi will present a **live audio/video performance** created for the occasion, which will expand the new book in light of recent events. It is an attempt to create a fragile media theory able to account for the new fluidity of bodies, one that is based on everyday triviality but pursues the poetic voice that lurks in each of us, straining to be heard. After being used, among other things, for meetings, lectures, parties, aperitifs and funerals, the Zoom platform is pushed to its technical limits, in order to force it to reveal itself as the scapegoat for a plethora of new normative techno-entities which permit us, paradoxically, to continue to call this violent digital survival "life".

On Saturday 18 July, the book e-launch, in collaboration with **Live Arts Week**, joins the the programme of **Santarcangelo Festival 2020**, in an edition of the festival marked by an unprecedented effort of practical, conceptual and performative reimagination. The event will take place as part of *Digitale Reale* (4pm-6pm, live at the Cortile di Camilla, on Zoom and FB live).

In Milan, on Wednesday 22 July, at 7pm, the e-launch will be part of the programme of **Triennale Estate** – *Un Giardino di voci e colori*, within the *Ultradim* format, curated by Davide Giannella.

In addition, **from Thursday 9 July**, the *Words* section of *5th floor*, a digital extension of the **Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève** (one of the international partners of the project), will host a presentation clip created ad hoc by the artist.

NERO Editions www.neroeditions.com/product/morestalgia/

Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève 5e.centre.ch/fr/words/

Santarcangelo Festival 2020 www.santarcangelofestival.com/show/talk/

Venue: Il Cortile di Camilla, via Federico Montevicchi, 7 – Santarcangelo / on Zoom and FB live:
[facebook.com/SANTARCANGELOFESTIVAL/](https://www.facebook.com/SANTARCANGELOFESTIVAL/)

Triennale Milano www.triennale.org/eventi/triennale-estate/

Venue: Giardino della Triennale, Viale Alemagna 6 – Milan

Riccardo Benassi www.riccardobenassi.info

Press kit

https://bit.ly/RB_MORESTALGIA_BOOK

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THE BOOK

Riccardo Benassi **MORESTALGIA**

Before the second half of the 19th century, Nostalgia did not exist. The term was used to describe a peculiar psychological condition that spread among soldiers away from home. Italian artist Riccardo Benassi coined the term *morestalgia* accordingly, so to update its meaning to the time of the internet. Affections, migrations and familiarity, phenomenology of contemporary interfaces, psychoanalysis, history and psychology—everything contributes to defining this type of “augmented nostalgia”, a hypermodern feeling that triggers a sort of pain similar to envy, as a sense of lack that becomes loss. Saturated with memories from immersive web browsing, *morestalgic* beings want a life experience that was once promised to them, but never really fulfilled. This artist book poses questions underlying our contemporaneity, such as: how do social networks and online communities contribute to the unification and normalization of different subjective pasts? Can digital empathy become a useful tool to reshape the future, rather than proposing an alliance around a supposedly shared past? In other words, how can we today transform this subjective sense of belonging into a collective becoming?

Foreword by Andrea Bellini.

- Format: 11 x 17 cm
- Pages: 168
- Language: the book is available in both English and Italian language.
- Year: 2020
- Publisher: NERO
- Production: Xing