



Xing  
announces

**Margherita Morgantin**  
**DAMA LIBRE**  
exhibition

**24 september opening**  
**25 september > 7 november 2021**  
**Venezia - Ca' Pesaro Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna**

part of the project  
**VIP = Violation of the Pauli exclusion principle SOTTO LA MONTAGNA, SOPRA LA MONTAGNA**  
produced by Xing with the support of the Italian Council (2020)

**Xing** announces **DAMA LIBRE**, the exhibition by **Margherita Morgantin** at the **International Gallery of Modern Art of Ca' Pesaro in Venice, from 25 September to 7 November 2021** (opening Friday 24 September 11 am > 5 pm)

On this occasion, the project **VIP = Violation of the Pauli exclusion principle UNDER THE MOUNTAIN, ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN**, produced by Xing and created thanks to the support of the **Italian Council** (VIII edition 2020), is presented to the public in the exhibition, and the artwork **VIP**, the result of the artistic process carried out by the artist, **becomes part of Ca' Pesaro's collections.**

Margherita Morgantin's **VIP** project, symbolically linked to the Gran Sasso Mountain, was developed in 2020 and 2021. The research process took place **UNDER THE MOUNTAIN**, in the largest underground laboratory in the world dedicated to the detection of rare phenomena and nuclear physical events, thanks to the 'cosmic silence' guaranteed by a massive layer of rocks that separates it from the atmosphere; and **ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN**, on the Gran Sasso National Park, an important area for its high altitude biodiversity.

The title of the exhibition, **DAMA LIBRE**, refers to the detection of an energy signal compatible with dark matter, which has been involved in the DAMA (Dark Matter) experiments at the Gran Sasso National Laboratories for years and in various variants. It also echoes the posture of an author who makes different languages and approaches dialogue within a path of research and deep understanding of reality. At the core of Morgantin's thinking is the need to critically investigate conventional visions and paradigms and to move freely among knowledge. The nature of her visual research, characterized by the use of science and scientific language, develops in the direction of a transdisciplinary imaginative reflection.

**DAMA LIBRE** is articulated in the video environment **CAMPO BASE, una specie del vento**: the beginning of the climatic and performative monitoring of the whole project by Morgantin returned in a visual and sound field recording from sunrise to sunset accompanied by the numerical mantra of the wind variations detected by the anemometer, which will compose an environment of the exhibition (like "a long-lasting climatic gaze over the mountain"); and the artwork **VIP = Violation of the Pauli exclusion principle SOTTO LA MONTAGNA, SOPRA LA MONTAGNA**, a long sheet of watermarked paper that collects an abstract flow of signs and marks, rolled up and then carried out on a horizontal display that integrates the drawings with light and sound. A **PMT photon sensor**, extracted from the black box in which it would operate, lies among the artist's notes as a technical sculpture in relation to the environment. In the same space hangs a **silk windsock** - a symbolic element that has accompanied the artist's research for years - to signal the invisible movements of the air.

*"After a year of exchanges and listening between Above and Under the Mountain, all the scientific data and observations collected by the measuring instruments become an intimate and personal fact as a story of the feeling of a body and its relationships." (M.M.)*

In **VIP = Violation of the Pauli exclusion principle UNDER THE MOUNTAIN, ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN** Margherita Morgantin has been observing images of subnuclear and astroparticle physics in relation to artistic imagination, to personal sensitivity as a form of scientific data. The title derives from one of the particle physics experiments in progress for years in the underground laboratories of the Gran Sasso National Institute of Nuclear Physics: **VIP** is the acronym that names one of the experimentation projects on 'impossible atoms', whose appearance would represent a violation of Pauli's principle of exclusion, still considered today among the cornerstones of our scientific understanding of the universe and matter.

The two places, **UNDER THE MOUNTAIN** and **ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN**, were the '**base camps**' for research: the first is solitary in the underground; the second is shared by the artist with invited guests, and takes place outdoors, exposed to climatic events. The underground field (in the Gran Sasso National Laboratories) is devoid of radiation like an open window on the depth of matter. Here the artist faces the limits of knowledge and the forms of 'reticence' of matter, and looks at observation practices and direct or indirect methods of exploration.

The open field (in Campo Imperatore in the Abruzzo national park, also known as Little Tibet) welcomes atmospheric events through meteorological instruments, refining a process of tuning and sensory listening in presence. Up there



Margherita Morgantini has involved in dialogue different figures with an extra-scientific multidisciplinary background, from live arts, to sound, to philosophy.

The camps were followed by 'moments' of study, dissemination, comparison and exchange, in a cycle of installation, dialoguing, performative and sound presentations organized in collaboration with Italian and foreign institutions: **Accademia di Belle Arti L'Aquila, Gran Sasso Science Institute, laboratori Nazionali di Fisica del Gran Sasso (SHARPER 2020), La Salle de Bains Lyon, Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Palazzo Lucarini Contemporary Trevi, Radio India/Teatro di Roma, Live Arts Week X and ART CITY Bologna, Serralves Museu de Arte Contemporanea Porto and MAXXI L'Aquila.**

VIP has also developed in the form of **drawing, writing and sound.**

The research process has been condensed into a **display that exposes the artist's writing** that becomes part of the collections of Ca' Pesaro International Gallery of Modern Art in Venice.

The numerical data of the VIP experiment were processed in the **sound tracks** created by the electronic music composer Ilaria Lemmo and by Beatrice Goldoni for the surface sounds.

The writing accompanying the project has merged into the **book *Sotto la Montagna Sopra la Montagna*** published by **nottetempo**: a collection of texts and drawings that represent an exercise in critical thinking, and which constitute a further key to reading the work-parchment.

**Margherita Morgantini**, a visual artist based in Milan, was born in Venice where she graduated in Architecture at the I.U.A.V., researching on systems for forecasting natural light. Her work is articulated through different languages, ranging from drawing and installation to performance, moving on a thread that connects language, philosophy, mathematics and visual culture. Contact and cohabitation, observation and imagination, are the open intervals that characterize the work of Morgantini. She has participated in contemporary art exhibitions in Italy and abroad, and carried out special actions and projects in different contexts including: Museion (Bolzano), Galleria Continua (San Gimignano), Villa Croce (Genoa), La Biennale di Venezia Danza, MAMbo and Xing (Bologna). She has published books of short texts and drawings: *Titolo variabile* (Quodlibet 2009), *Agenti autonomi e sistemi multiagente* (with Michele Di Stefano) (Quodlibet 2012), *Wittgenstein* (nottetempo 2016), *Lo spazio dentro* (with Maddalena Buri) (nottetempo e-pub 2020), *Sotto la montagna Sopra la montagna* (nottetempo 2021). Since 2013 she also works as Pawel und Pavel, a collaborative project on writing and performance with Italo Zuffi. She has collaborated with visual and sound artists, choreographers including Michele Di Stefano/mk, Roberta Mosca, Richard Crow, Mattin, Alice Guareschi, and with the Diotima women philosophical collective. She teaches artistic anatomy, scientific illustration, and performance techniques at Accademy of Fine Arts in L'Aquila.

[www.margheritamorgantini.eu](http://www.margheritamorgantini.eu)

#### **Ca' Pesaro - Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna info:**

Santa Croce 2076 - Venezia

The museum is open from Thursday to Sunday from 11am to 5pm

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#### **VIP project Press Kit:**

[https://bit.ly/Xing\\_VIP\\_Margherita\\_Morgantini\\_presskit](https://bit.ly/Xing_VIP_Margherita_Morgantini_presskit)

#### **DAMA LIBRE images:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ut7uv2a5318v021/AACN1QZ6IuRfxwCh4F\\_Cw29ka?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ut7uv2a5318v021/AACN1QZ6IuRfxwCh4F_Cw29ka?dl=0)

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