



Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna and Xing  
present

**SILVIA COSTA/NICOLA RATTI**

**Thursday 28 September 5.30 pm**

*Provocare la scintilla*

talk

+

**Friday 6 October 7.30 pm + 9 pm**

*La mano nel Sacco*

performance, première

+

**Saturday 7 October > Sunday 5 November**

*La mano nel Sacco*

installation

**Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna**

Via Belle Arti 56 – Bologna

a project curated by Xing

On **Friday 6 October 2023** at 7.30 pm and at 9 pm **Xing** and the **Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna** present *La mano nel Sacco*, a **performance** by **Silvia Costa** and **Nicola Ratti**, commissioned by the Pinacoteca and produced by Xing. The performance will be preceded, on **28 September**, by a **talk** that recounts the creative process which originated and will generate a **temporary installation** that will be visible in the room dedicated to the frescoes of Mezzaratta from **Saturday 7 October** –on the occasion of the **Nineteenth Contemporary Art Day**, promoted by AMACI - Associazione dei Musei d'Arte Contemporanea Italiani - to **Sunday 5 November**.

*La mano nel Sacco* is part of *Membrane Culturali*, a multidisciplinary program that intends to re-imagine the spaces of the Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna, inhabiting the rooms of the museum with different artistic languages. *Membrane Culturali* is part of Bologna Estate 2023, the billboard of activities promoted and coordinated by the Municipality of Bologna and the Metropolitan City of Bologna-Tourist Territory Bologna-Modena.

*La mano nel Sacco* is a performative action for a place that preserves the memory of the past. The performance develops through the Frescoes Hall and the Sinopias Hall which opens onto the large space dedicated to Mezzaratta like a magmatic antechamber in formation. Here the movements between two temporalities meet: one stabilized, vertical; the other precarious, horizontal, the one that the beings of the present superimpose. *La mano nel Sacco* is a perspective path in which audience and performer advance physically and mentally, by layers, like the process visible on the walls.

*“Perceiving the violence of the tearing of the images from their original supports, *La mano nel Sacco* uses the same formal principle of those stranger, barbaric gestures, to fill the holes, the deficiencies, and continue a buried dialogue. The performative body appropriates it: the sound settles in space while the sonic geography advances. We stealthily enter a place of silent observation. We enter as guests between these walls that erect vertical views in front of us, fragmented narratives. A dense representation of anonymous faces, ancient and fearsome. Three performers and a musician insinuate themselves between their rhythm, between one fresco and another. They cross the space like writing, from left to right. They are caught in the act of mirroring themselves with wild vanity in those poses of bony hands, which hold heads, swords, branches, in those gazes from small and acute pupils. They respond with barbarism to voices crystallized forever, to reactivate the secret of those figures in the present, pull it down from the walls, lay it on the ground and appropriate it.”* (Silvia Costa)

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In the resulting **installation** there are no complete images of the performative crossing. The remains and outlines of the performance and the sculptures by Nicola Martini will be on display according to a space dramaturgy in a dialogue with the works exhibited in the halls, and can be visited for a month.

*“Just like a sinopia, only the outlines of things remain to remind us that there was an after. It's already been there. The shadows of the three bodies will lie on the ground through the shapes of their costumes. A costume-body guarding each room. Together with them in a precise composition, the objects that have been used, touched, moved will rest. The threads that have united them in touches and actions will be stretched between the halls, to show the memory of the lines of their paths. The sounds will be diffused in the Sinopias Hall without the source being seen, like an echo of the space itself.”* (Silvia Costa)

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On **Thursday 28 September 2023** at 5.30 pm the two artists will share the creation process of *La mano nel Sacco* in a **talk** at the **Pinacoteca di Bologna** entitled ***To provoke the sparkle.***

How is a collaboration born and the working method built? How does writing for images and for sounds relate to the space that will host them? How is the friction between disciplines triggered to ignite the fertile spark of intuition, of the idea, of the project? Starting from the site-specific work *La mano nel Sacco*, conceived in dialogue with the sinopias of the Mezzaratta frescoes in the Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna, Silvia Costa and Nicola Ratti talk of their long-term artistic collaboration, to trace the dynamics of reflection around the common process of creation.

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### ***La mano nel Sacco***

project by Silvia Costa e Nicola Ratti  
with Elena Rivoltini, Miranda Secondari and Silvia Costa  
sound Nicola Ratti  
sculptures Nicola Martini  
commission of Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna  
curated and produced by Xing

**Silvia Costa** is an Italian artist, director and performer from Treviso. She studied Visual and Performing Arts at the IUAV University of Venice. Between 2006 and 2019, she has contributed as an actress and artistic collaborator to most of Romeo Castellucci's creations for theater and opera. At the same time she carried on her own artistic projects, developing since 2007 a visual and poetic theater nourished by a deep reflection on images. Alternating roles as author, director, performer or set designer, this protean artist crosses different aesthetic fields in a personal exploration of Theatre. She has created theatre works (*Figure, Stato di Grazia, Come un vaso d'oro*

*adorno di pietre preziose, Quello che di più grande l'uomo ha realizzato sulla terra, Poil de Carotte, Erinnerung eines Mädchens, La femme au marteau* on the cycle of piano sonatas by Galina Ustvolskaja interpreted by Marino Formenti), performances (*La quiescenza del seme, A sangue freddo, Alla Traccia, Midnight Snack*), installations and multimedia projects (*Musica da Camera, Tabula, Emotional Intelligence, Descrizione di un quadro, E Dio si riposò il settimo giorno, Sono dentro, l'essere ciò che è chiuso in un tratto, La mano nel Sacco*), and works for kids designed as a concrete and sensory experience for an intellectual and practical understanding of art. In 2019 she premiered in Paris at the Festival d'Automne and at Festival delle Colline Torinesi with her own creation *Nel Paese dell'Inverno*, inspired by *Dialogues with Leucò* by Cesare Pavese, and directed and designed the scenes for *Wry Smile Dry Sob*, choreographic and music installation inspired by *Spiel* by Samuel Beckett. Recent projects have definitely expanded to the musical and operatic world, collaborating with the Ensemble Intercontemporain for the mise en espace of *Hierophanie* by Claude Vivier, and *Intérieur*, composed by Joan Macrané Figuera, followed by *Così fan tutte* by Mozart. She also directed the operas *Juditha Triumphans* by Vivaldi, and *Combattimento, or the Black Swann's theory*, based on the works of Monteverdi and his contemporaries, *Freitag aus Licht* by Karlheinz Stockhausen, *Noah's Ark* by Benjamin Britten, *Like flesh*, chamber opera composed by Sivan Eldar, libretto by Cordelia Lynn, with the ensemble Le Balcon, and *JULIE* by Philippe Boesmans. Her creations and mise en espace were presented at Opéra Nationale de Lorraine, Opera de Lille, Philharmonie de Paris, L'Opera de Lyon, Cité de la Musique Paris, Opera di Stuttgart, Landestheater Vorarlberg di Bregenz, Théâtre du Chatelet Paris, Palau de Les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. She was associated artist at Teatro dell'Arte/Milan Triennale (2017-2019), at the Centre Dramatique National in Angers(2019), and supported by De Singel, international artistic center of Flanders (2021-2023). Since 2020, she has been part of the artistic ensemble of the Comédie de Valence.

[www.silvia-costa.com](http://www.silvia-costa.com)

**Nicola Ratti** is a Milan-based multifaceted musician and sound designer active in various experimental fields. His sound production creates systems that take shape from repetition and expansion, with particular attention to the construction of environments that gravitate in relation to the space and architecture we live in and balancing the emotional and perceptual orientations we are used to. He has performed in Europe, North America, Russia and Japan and his albums have been released by international labels since 2006. His longest collaborative project is the duo Bellows with Giuseppe Ielasi, active since 2007. Ongoing collaborations with Silvia Costa, Romeo Castellucci, Armin Linke, Attila Faravelli, among others. As composer and sound designer his works cross different fields: theatre, cinema, performing arts, radio works and sound art. He's a co-founder and member of Standards, an artist-run centre in Milan focused on sound and space (2015-2022).

[www.nicolaratti.com](http://www.nicolaratti.com)

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## PROGRAMME

**Thursday 28 September 5.30 pm**

Silvia Costa/Nicola Ratti - *Provocare la scintilla* (talk)

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**Friday 6 October 7.30 pm + 9 pm**

Silvia Costa/Nicola Ratti - *La mano nel Sacco* (performance, première)

+

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Silvia Costa/Nicola Ratti - *La mano nel Sacco* (installation)

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### Where

Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna  
Via Belle Arti 56 – Bologna

### Opening time

Tuesday, Wednesday 9 am -12 pm  
from Thursday to Sunday and holidays 9 am -7 pm  
Monday closed

### Tickets

Public meeting: free admission with reservations required (link on the Pinacoteca website)  
Performance: free admission with reservations required (link on the Pinacoteca website)  
Installation: entrance ticket to the museum  
Days with free admission: Saturday 7 October, Saturday 4 November, Sunday 5 November

### Reservations

talk 28 september 2023 5.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/biglietti-provocare-la-scintilla-706706908387>

performance 6 october 2023 7.30 pm + 9 pm

write to [info@xing.it](mailto:info@xing.it)

### Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna info

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[www.facebook.com/PinacotecaBO](https://www.facebook.com/PinacotecaBO) [www.instagram.com/pinacoteca\\_bologna/](https://www.instagram.com/pinacoteca_bologna/)

### Xing info

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[www.xing.it](http://www.xing.it) [www.facebook.com/xing.it](https://www.facebook.com/xing.it) [www.twitter.com/liveartsweek](https://www.twitter.com/liveartsweek)

[www.instagram.com/xing.it](https://www.instagram.com/xing.it)

### Press kit

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lig98k6py5vpq6h/AACJYVcUKE8Vy9BaQMtdOKU9a?dl=0>

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### Partners

AMACI, Xing. Media partners: Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.