



Xing and ISSUE Project Room
present

Francesco Cavaliere

Saturday 13 April

Abyssal Creatures - Body0 Xilema

sound performance & sound installation

artist talk Francesco Cavaliere in conversation with Abram Deslauriers

ISSUE Project Room@UrbanGlass – New York

+

Friday 12 April

Abyssal Creatures - Glass Peoples

lecture/workshop in collaboration with **Pratt Institute**

UrbanGlass – New York

project supported by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture
under the Italian Council program (2023)
produced by Xing

Saturday 13 April 2024 Xing presents in **Brooklyn (NY)**, ***Abyssal Creatures - Body0 Xilema***, sound performance & installation by **Francesco Cavaliere**, a double event curated by **ISSUE Project Room**, interdisciplinary organization interested in expanding the boundaries of artistic practices, in the spaces of **UrbanGlass**, a historic structure that fosters experimentation with glass as a creative medium. Follows an artist talk with Francesco Cavaliere in conversation with Abram Deslauriers.

The event is preceded on **Friday 12 April**, at UrbanGlass, by ***Abyssal Creatures - Glass Peoples***, lecture/workshop by Cavaliere, with a class from the **Pratt Institute** - Fine Art program, on exploratory processes with blown glass in his creations.

Abyssal Creatures is a project by Francesco Cavaliere, curated and produced by Xing, that amplifies a fantasy narrative about a group of creatures and develops in a new saga inspired by the images of the marine flora of the abyss, hybridized with archetypal figures of the human unconscious. These creatures, coagulated on glass in the form of sound sculptures designed with the **Murano glassblowing masters**, are beings that inhale sound and exhale resonances. The sinusoidal waves radiate into the sculptures, insinuating themselves and reflecting in their multiple cavities (antennas, simple convex organs), providing a more or less complex audible mass that entices the listener to enter inside.

The prototype sculpture in transparent crystal with the iridescent head **Phalaminàsh0**, aka **Corp0** (or **Body0**) stating its dynastic nomenclatures, is the firstborn of this animal ensemble. This sculpture will be activated in two special presentations curated by ISSUE Project Room. In both occasions the sculpture will be accompanied by the support of two **XILEMA** glass horns, the first glass works created by Cavaliere with the **Thai glass masters** in Berlin in 2014. The combination of **Body0** and **Xilema** will give life to a **new transparent chimeric ensemble**, which will be installed and played by Cavaliere (voice, glass, microspeakers, laptop) between story-telling and the magic of sound. An opportunity to look out onto this artist's ethereal and fluctuating universe, suspended between alchemy and science-fiction, which relocates knowledge about matter and nature - from botany to crystallography - in a poetic dimension, which goes beyond measured thought.

The artworks by Francesco Cavaliere for his project ***Abyssal Creatures*** are an **ensemble of concave Murano blown glass sculptures**, which recall animals and plants from the depths of the sea, non-bipedal, transparent creatures assembled like communicating vessels that form a sounding body. The Music that flows inside them is like an abstract vascular form, drawing inspiration from the Xylem and the Lymphatic systems that some plants have. Here is their physiology according to Cavaliere: "They are sound bodies that function as ambivalent musical instruments (idiophones, such as bells, and areophones, susceptible to air vibrations) for which the two transparent materials par excellence were used: glass, rigid and crystalline, and sound, an intangible element, which moves and organizes through gaseous paths. The floral elements of the sculptures and the curvilinear shapes constitute a set of conical-cylindrical sound resonators, which host sound reproduction and diffusion systems. The sculptures seem to exude noises, the sound passes through them like an abstract vascular system."

The project, curated by Xing and supported by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture under the **Italian Council program** (2023), has been developed during 2023-24. After **Porto** (festival *The Museum as Performance* at the Serralves Museu de Arte Contemporanea), **Bologna** (Aula Magna of the Academy of Fine Arts) and **New York**, ***Abyssal Creatures*** will be presented in summer 2024 at the GAM – Gallery of Modern Art in **Turin**, with a new dynastic filiation, ***Sábanas II***, a sound sculpture recently acquired by the museum. In autumn, an **artist book** will be published with ViaIndustriae Publishing and an **album** for Xing collection - artist records will be released. The work will become part of the collections of the Museo d'Arte della Città di **Ravenna**.

ISSUE Project Room is a pioneering Brooklyn-based performance nonprofit founded in 2003, ISSUE presents projects by interdisciplinary artists that expand the boundaries of artistic practice and stimulate critical dialogue in the broader community. ISSUE serves as a leading cultural incubator, facilitating the commission and premiere of innovative new works spanning genres of music, dance, literature and film.

UrbanGlass, located in the historic 1918 Strand Theatre in the Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District is the New York metropolitan area's leading glass-blowing facility. It was founded in 1977 by three artists and was originally known as the New York Experimental Glass Workshop.



Francesco Cavaliere is a visual artist, writer and sound producer born in Tuscany, Italy, in 1980. He lives and works between Berlin and Turin. His works are capable of enlivening his listeners' inner states through a polymorphic activity that combines writing, sound, voice, drawing, sculpture, which together stimulate the imagination, undertaking long journeys crossed by ephemeral presences. He writes sound stories and music based on particles of sound, noise and language, often integrated with installation and scenographic elements or live performance, showing a particular taste for the most diverse forms of exoticism. Over the years he has developed a veritable dictionary to catalogue the metamorphic beings that inhabit his own abstract fantasy universe: hybrids of objects, animals, plants, planets, trails, cosmic objects and physical and perceptual phenomena generated by glass, minerals and voices, recorded and performed with analog technologies. *"I am a talking scribe ... my voice is a cloud, my pen hisses."*

From 2011 to today Francesco Cavaliere has produced series of performances, light and sound actions, concerts, radio and audio-visual works, audio stories, readings in the visual and musical field, Augmented Reality stories. His work has been shown in museums, art centers and international festivals including: Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, KORA Contemporary Art Centre, Castrignano de' Greci; Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milano; *Ti con zero*, Xing/Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma; *Una Cosa Mostruosa*, Sacro Bosco di Bomarzo; Triennale Teatro, FOG, Milano; LUFF Festival, Lausanne; Ambient Festival, Cologne; Live Arts Week/Xing, Bologna; GLUCK 50, Milano; Terraforma, Villa Arconati, Milano; RIBOCA1 Riga International Biennial, Riga; Issue Project Room, New York; Cafè Oto, London; Helicotrema Recorded Audio Festival, RAI radio 3, Milan; INFRA FESTIVAL, Tokyo; BOZAR, Bruxelles; 3HD Fest, HAU Habel am Ufer, Berlin; Empty Gallery, Honk Kong; 7TH Berlin Biennale; Les Urbaines Festival, Lausanne; Museum of Contemporary Art di Tokyo; Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde; Grimmuseum Berlin; CTM festival Berlin; Museum of Contemporary Art, Warsaw; QO2 Bruxelles; Kraak Ghent; ART Brussels.

Personal exhibitions in the visual field: *Prodigy Kid* (2022), MAR Museo d'Arte della Città di Ravenna; *La Lince d'Ombra e Pietra Sponga* (2021), Una Boccata d'Arte, Fondazione Elpis e Galleria Continua, Vallo di Nera; *Anubis vs Baboon* (2019) Gluck 50, Milan; *Soffio Che Scotta* (2015); Xing/Marsèlleria, Milan; *Lancio Meta Meteo* (2014) Grimmuseum, Berlin; *Volta di Lame di Lune* (2012), Kinderhook and Caracas, Berlin. Group exhibitions: *Raymond et des Palmes* (2018), part of Manifesta 12, Palermo; *Green Music* (2017) Yamamoto Gendai Gallery, Tokyo; *The Glowing Glove* (2014) Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde; *Volta di Lame di Lune* (2012), Liverpool Biennale. Francesco Cavaliere, also known as Francis Knight, has released the double LP *Gancio Cielo* (Hundebiss records - for which he also curated the on-line project *Musica Virtuale*), the LPs *Etrusca 3D* (Discrepant), *Zoomachia Disc 1* (Fantom Dischi), *Aquilone Grattacielo dj mix* (Pacific City Disc), *Sijuaq il Chiurlo veggente* (Poole music). He also released on cassette and digital the sound works *Volta di Lame di Lune*, *Alata Onda*, *I films fan venire gli occhi rossi*, *IATO* (self productions) and *ENERGIA NUVOLA* (Troglosound), *Xylomania* (CN), *Doro Bengala* (Presto!). In duo with Sea Urchin they released the albums *Yaqaza* (Kraak rec), *Tahtib* (Bokeh versions), *Natal Uranus* (Commend see, RVNG), and in duo with Tomoko Sauvage the LP *Viridescence* (Marionette). Forecoming releases: *Popoli di Vetro* (Xing >> Xong Collection), the tape + booklet *L'arco Infra le Nubi* (Canti Magnetici). He published the books *Gancio Cielo DNA CLEPSYDRA* (NERO editions), *Anubis vs Baboon* (Lombardelli Ed, Gluck 50) and *Il Grillo Minerva* (ViaIndustriae). He has collaborated with visual artists, musicians and choreographers: Leila Hassan with the duo Sea Urchin, Marcel Türkowsky, Elisabeth Kirche, Ignaz Schick, Ghédalia Tazartès, Invernemuto, Lievens Martens Moana/Dolphins Into The Future, Ruben Spini, Annamaria Ajmone, Spencer Clark, Tomoko Sauvage, Leonardo Pivi, Christopher Kline, Amy Franceschini.

<https://cavalierecircles.wixsite.com/francesco-cavaliere>

www.instagram.com/cavaliere.circles7 francescocavaliere.bandcamp.com soundcloud.com/f-cavaliere

Press Kit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/keu8vzt1wizg28wi1xc4z/h?rlkey=oc4vnesrewt2nvn8117us9e8w&dl=0>

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The project is supported by



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