



Xing
presents

Wednesday 26 November 2025 10 pm

FRANCESCO FONASSI

Gritar, No Caer

sonic presentation and A/V performance

Raum

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d – Bologna

Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 10 pm **Xing** presents at **Raum**, Bologna, ***Gritar, No Caer*** by **Francesco Fonassi**, sonic presentation and A/V performance from a ***VHF radio expedition at La Zona del Silencio, Durango, México, 2025***, part of ***The Oracular Eavesdropper***, one of the winning projects of **Italian Council 13**.

Gritar, No Caer is a psychic landscape that generates paradoxes and phenomena, a sonic mirage and a proof-of-concept for **electromagnetism and radio transmissions**. It captures and compresses the space and vastness of a territory into the physical act of transmission, just as oral culture has resisted centuries of nomadic settlements and animal migrations in the mysterious *Zone of Silence*, a vast desert area located on the edge of the Mapimí Biosphere Reserve in Durango, Mexico. This zone, where electromagnetic waves are said to be naturally blocked, is the subject of popular and pseudoscientific belief, and is the geographical-symbolic core of Francesco Fonassi's experiment in transmission art and the study of acoustic phenomena conducted in the spring of 2025.

During his research trip, Fonassi initiated a series of radio experiments in various areas of the desert using a pickup truck equipped with mobile listening, emission, and transmission units including a sound system, tape recorders, a shortwave transmitter/receiver, samplers, and so on, proceeding through configurations and implementations of radio bridges. Far from offering a literal description of the territory - or recording it, according to field recording practices - ***Gritar, No Caer*** proposes a form of active listening that seeks not to dominate the space, but rather to simultaneously contaminate and interrogate it. **Fragments of electronic compositions, tape loops, interference and distortions, spoken words of legends and indigenous poetry, rhythmic cells, and the sounds of pre-Columbian aerophones** constitute the sonic body used during the **broadcast sessions**. This solitary and **oracular listening** intertwines with natural magic practices and pseudoscientific speculations that permeate the area, giving rise to a liminal zone where sound becomes presence, signal, and invocation.

The event **at Raum** consists of an **audiovisual performance** that draws from this **sound archive** with video counterpoints on monitors and the display of several volumes and magazines collected in bookstores in Mexico City. The audience does not experience a linear narrative, but rather a listening and viewing experience in which the origin and provenance of the materials dissolve in favor of an off-site perception, deeply connected to the context in which it unfolds.

The imagery surrounding the ***Zone of Silence*** adds a further layer of meaning to this exploration: **radio waves struggle to travel**, mysterious lights cross the sky, and magnetic anomalies alter the psycho-geographical perception of the place. Some attribute these phenomena to meteorite strikes in the 1970s, others to military experiments or inexplicable geographic features. This territory, at the **crossroads of science and mysticism**, thus becomes an active field of study and research. The **visual dimension of the project**, developed in collaboration with Argentine filmmaker **Nata Failde**, based in Mexico City, recounts the configurations, locations, and processes of these disturbances on the image plane through "visual frames." The camera adopts a corporeal position directed at the landscape, generating a fragmented and structured visuality in which the physicality of the terrain becomes an image. The landscape's uncertainty cannot be recorded in its entirety; rather, it appears segmented and latent. The video thus becomes a field of visual interference.

Francesco Fonassi is a sonic artist, independent researcher, musician, sound designer and producer, based in Brescia, Italy. Since 2004 he has been active in the field of sonic arts with electronic, acousmatic and environmental compositions, experimental radio projects, performances, sound field research, listening sessions, sculptural prototypes, installations and audiovisual/sensory spaces. His works have been featured in institutions, museums, festivals and independent spaces in Europe, Asia and America. Since 2018 he co-runs and co-directs Spettro, an independent venue/research sound lab/radio platform/club in Brescia, part of a network of sound artists and musicians across Europe, and since 2015 the independent label Villa Recordings. As musician he's part of several music projects: Quasai (in solo), Late Ninja (with Ukrainian drummer Anastasiia Marikutsa), Fonassi/Salogni duo (with producer Marta Salogni), the electronic trio Chorus Abstracta (with Twoonky). He has been half of the experimental music duo Interlingua.
www.francescofonassi.eu

Gritar, No Caer is part of ***The Oracular Eavesdropper***, one of the winning projects of the 13th edition of the **Italian Council** (2024), a program established by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture, realized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Roskilde, in collaboration with Museion – Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Bolzano), ESAD, École supérieure d'Art de Grenoble (Grenoble), and El Eco Experimental Museum (Mexico City). Curated by Matteo Binci. Cultural partners include Xing (Bologna) and qwatz, a contemporary art platform (Rome). Label: Miniera.

XING
Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d - 40123 Bologna
www.xing.it info@xing.it

The project included a research and production period in Mexico in 2025, concluding with an audiovisual performance at the Museo Experimental El Eco in Mexico City. In Spring 2026, the project will be presented in Copenhagen as a multichannel sound installation at Frederiksberg Square, as part of the Sound Wells program, before arriving in its final form at Museion in Bolzano: a permanent sound intervention, a radio bridge, an artificial echo that connects two areas of the city. This acoustic phenomenon will spark a discussion with local authorities on noise pollution regulations, activation times, volume thresholds, and emission locations.

Partners: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna. Media Partners: Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.

Xing/Raum info

Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d – Bologna - Italy

info@xing.it

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Xing press

mob +39.339.1503608 press@xing.it