

# ABSTRACTS AND AUTHORS

## ENGLISH ANNEX

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### EDITORIAL

*Eva di Stefano*

Spirituality, carnality and play are the three threads that run through these pages, where intimate creations born out of necessity, loneliness and obsession alternate with others that originate in manual practices of inventive recovery of waste, in opposition to the disposable trend, and still others of mediums and inspired people who appear invested with a superior mission. Without making judgments or building hierarchies, our intent is to guide the reader to recognize in these diversified and apparently alien productions the imprint of their historical, cultural and artistic time.

*Eva di Stefano* taught *Contemporary Art History* at the University of Palermo from 1992 to 2013; she founded the *Outsider Art Observatory* in 2008, which she runs together with the homonymous magazine published since 2010; among her many publications on 20th-century art, the volume *"Irregolari. Art Brut e Outsider Art in Sicilia"* (Kalòs, Palermo 2008) should be noted.

### SPECIAL STORIES

*Ingrid von Beyme*

#### **Angels of love. The art of Else Blankenhorn**

Else Blankenhorn (1873-1920) is the only woman to whom Hans Prinzhorn originally wanted to dedicate a specific chapter in his book *Bildnerei der Geisteskranken* (1922), but though her work was known and appreciated, only since 2022 has it become the subject of a retrospective exhibition and more in-depth studies. She was hospitalized at a young age and lived a life in the Swiss Bellevue sanatorium, where she began to draw fantasies of her inner world, marked by a youthful disappointment in love that she had never overcome. In her refined and very personal work we can see reminiscences of symbolism and expressionism, and more generally of the visual culture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

*Ingrid von Beyme*, an art historian, graduated in Berlin with a thesis on *Art Brut*, and since 2009 has been the curator of the Prinzhorn Collection of the Heidelberg University Psychiatric Clinic, of which she is now also deputy director; she has done numerous publications on themes and authors from the collection.

*Manuel Anceau*

#### **Dancing fire. Drawings by Sylvain Fusco**

The life of Sylvain Fusco (1903-1940), a young craftsman, went off the rails due to a romantic misadventure and the bullying he suffered during his military service in Algeria. Locked in absolute silence and hospitalized in his early thirties in a mental hospital in Lyon, where he was to spend the rest of his life, after a few years he suddenly began to draw with great skill, encouraged by the young psychiatrist Requet. The subjects are sarabands of voluptuous female bodies and faces. With an empathetic and poetic style, the writer Manuel Anceau leads us through these intimate creations, flaming with erotic desire.

*Manuel Anceau* (b. 1970), a writer, lives and works in Paris. In addition to publishing collections of short stories (*Ab Irato* editions) he collaborates on various magazines;

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*passionate about Art Brut for thirty years, he has written several dedicated texts, and among the most recent is Folie du pouvoir - Pouvoir de la folie (in "POWER (LESS), éd. DOX ; Prague 2022).*

## **EXPLORATIONS**

*Dino Menozzi*

### **Pierre Albasser's magic inventions**

In Pierre Albasser (1936), a retired engineer, the automatic graphic scribble was converted over time into a real drawing of invention, giving life to a fantastic bestiary. Bright colours, marked contours and bizarre inventions characterize his creations, produced exclusively on recovered wrappers and packaging from everyday consumer goods, such as the cardboard packaging of chocolate bars. Defined in France as a singulier artist, his original work escapes classification.

*Dino Menozzi, (Reggio Emilia), has been a collector, since the early 1960s, and one of the main promoters and popularizers in Italy of naïf art first and then of irregular arts; he founded the magazine L'arte naïve and edited it from 1974 to 2002, opening it up to all expressions of marginal art.*

*Pavel Konečný*

### **Martin Sabaka's garden-world**

Martin Sabaka (1925-2016), a former railway worker from Východná, in the Czech Republic, never moved from his village, but recreated the world in miniature in his garden, where the Statue of Liberty coexisted with the Tower of Pisa, the Tower Bridge in London with Bratislava Castle, and so on in a cheerful jumble of three-dimensional postcard icons, all built with materials taken from the village landfill, with an unconsciously environmentalist orientation. The article recounts the rescue operation after the death of the creator and the disposal of the garden, carried out by a group of enthusiasts, including the author of the article: the works were transferred and constitute a permanent installation 'Station World' open to visitors.

*Pavel Konečný, a scholar on and collector of Eastern European Outsider and Folk Art since the 1970s, curates exhibitions and publications (including on Italian creators, of whom he is a passionate discoverer) and for some years has been organizing the international 'Art Brut Film' exhibition in Olomouc (Czech Republic) where he lives.*

*Paolo Mucciarelli*

### **Like a jazz suite: Camarillo's scores**

A rare record shop in the alleys of Brescia is also a surprising and secret painting atelier. The owner Camarillo (alias Giovanni Gioacchini), a passionate connoisseur of jazz music, is the very reserved creator of musical scores with a tight graphic rhythm and bright and harmonious colours. The support is always some poster or recycled paper, the tool the Bic pen, and the process automatic.

*Paolo Mucciarelli (b. 1949, Brescia) is a creative artist, photographer and filmmaker; since 1984 he has collaborated in artistic workshops in mental health centers, drawing together with the inmates; with this aim he founded the association 'Artema Libere Forme' (info@mucciarellistudio.it).*

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*Giorgia Bergantin*

**Giorgio Mazzon's soldiers**

Giorgio Mazzon (1946-2017) was a multifaceted self-taught man – a painter, sculptor and ceramist – working in Rovigo province. He also created scenic objects for the theater and left more than a thousand works in his home-studio. Among these, the most notable are a series of totemic sculptures, made with recycled wood and metals, narrow and about 2 meters high, which he started working on in 2012, and which he wanted to call 'soldiers of peace'. Each of these warriors, despite their minimal structure, is different from the others and has its own physiognomy.

*Giorgia Bergantin, who graduated in Visual Arts at the University of Bologna, is an art and support teacher at a secondary school in Rovigo province, and curates exhibitions and art events.*

**IN-DEPTH**

*Giada Carraro*

**The unexpected friendships of the painter-carabiniere Francesco Di Terlizzi**

An essay that brings new elements to the historical reconstruction of the reception of self-taught art in Italy: to the naïfs of Padania, with whom the magazine has dealt several times, we add the 'Scuola del Pineto' in Trentino, composed of the artists that did ex-votos at the relevant sanctuary, which aroused a certain interest in the wake of the French naïfs called 'those of the Sacred Heart' by the critic Wilhelm Uhde. The text focuses on the life and work of Francesco Di Terlizzi (1896-1987), the painter-carabiniere, at the center of a charming friendly triangle of Italian intellectuals of the twenties and thirties: Edoardo Persico, Carlo Belli, and the cultured artist Tullio Garbari.

*Giada Carraro, an art historian, lives in Bologna, and collaborates with public and private bodies on cataloging and digitization projects of the cultural heritage. She is also an independent researcher in the field of irregular art and fantastic architecture, and has edited the multilingual electronic magazine "Bric -à-brac".*

*Céline Gazzoletti*

**Mediumistic women: spiritualism and artistic creation**

Mediumistic art, neglected by official art history, is one of the most fertile areas of Art Brut, and one in which female artists have especially distinguished themselves, as our magazine has always highlighted, and as was recently highlighted, in 2023, by an exhibition at the Pompidou Museum of works from the Decharme Donation. The curator, presenting some well-known female medium artists, from Madge Gill to Josefa Tolrà, underlines the emancipatory role of spiritualism for women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and reconstructs its historical context.

*Céline Gazzoletti is an art historian whose work focuses on Art Brut and in particular on the donation of Bruno Decharme to the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, for which in 2023 she curated the exhibition 'Les femmes médiumniques'.*

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*Marta Miró Garcia*

**An enlightened life. Rafel Bolet and El Parquet**

The article, based on thorough documentary research, presents the life and work of Rafel Bolet Via (1889-1983, Vilafranca del Penedès, Barcelona), who was inspired by numerous divine illuminations during his long life. The first of these, received at the age of 18, drove him with great determination to build a temple on the family estate, El Parquet, a singular complex which from the end of the 1950s until the 1980s was a very popular meeting point for naturists, followers of theosophy and even of spiritualist doctrine.

*Marta Miró Garcia graduated in Archeology from the University of Barcelona. She deals with creation and mental health; she has worked in the world of museums, making them accessible, and has promoted creative writing workshops for various mental health services; she is part of the international research group Visionary Woman Art.*

**BOOKS**

*Gabriele Mina*

**Spanish abodes of utopia. An inventory in progress**

This is a review of Jo Farb Hernández's monumental study on fantastic environments, gardens and constructions in Spain. It is a long research project, the first part of which was published in 2013 in the first volume Singular Spaces. The second part, Singular Spaces II: From the Eccentric to the Extraordinary in Spanish Art Environments, was recently published (5 Continents Editions), in two volumes (altogether about 1000 pages), rich in illustrations. For the first and second volumes, 144 visionary sites were surveyed, with an unusual and very varied mapping of Spain. It should be underlined that this is not a simple illustrated inventory, as a careful historical-artistic analysis is dedicated to each place, space or dwelling. And the research continues.

*Gabriele Mina, an anthropologist, deals with spontaneous environmental works, to which he dedicated the book Costruttori di Babele (elèuthera, Milan 2011) and the precious ongoing online archive "Costruttori di Babele"; he lives in Savona.*

*Lucienne Peiry*

**Art Brut pages. Dubuffet the writer**

Lucienne Peiry presents the collection, edited by herself, of Jean Dubuffet's writings, Art Brut et créateurs d'Art Brut (L'Atelier Contemporain, Strasbourg 2023). The author highlights the brilliant style of the artist and theorist, underlining the importance of referring to the original texts to understand the notion of Art Brut and its evolution without misunderstandings. The collection includes published and unpublished texts, including theoretical writings, monographs on individual artists, and above all letters, precious testimonies of the early years of the collection.

*Lucienne Peiry, an international art historian and a specialist on Art Brut, directed the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne from 2001 to 2011; she currently holds courses and conferences on Art Brut and runs the blog Notes d'Art Brut, and curates museum exhibitions; among her books are L'Art Brut (Flammarion, Paris 1997; 2nd expanded ed. 2016) translated into several languages, and she recently edited Dubuffet's writings (L'atelier contemporain, 2023).*

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## PROJECTS

*Giulia Crisci*

### **'This way you won't make the world laugh'. Imaginary Correspondences**

'Imaginary Correspondences' is a relational art project created by the artist Mariangela Capossela, where the written word becomes the link between past and present, from exile to return, from absence to presence. The heartbreaking letters written by patients in mental hospitals and never sent, extracted from archives and medical records, speak again, obtaining responses from volunteers participating in the project conceived by Mariangela Capossela, and involving the community in the exhibition. Started in Volterra in 2022, the project today involves other cities such as Trieste and Gorizia.

*Giulia Crisci, an independent researcher and curator, is currently carrying out a doctorate at Luav, University of Venice; she deals with artistic practices engaged in the social sphere, and since 2023 has curated, together with Francesca Comisso for 'a.titolo', the Imaginary Correspondences project of Mariangela Capossela.*

*Roberta Trapani*

### **The Adventures of PiF. Valorization and protection**

PiF (Patrimoines irréguliers de France) is an association founded in 2012 with the aim of highlighting and preserving forms of creation born on the margins of the art system, and with a special focus on utopian environments and architecture. The article describes the projects carried out to date by the group, the problems that have gradually arisen, the evolution of practice from protection to documentation, including videos, and the expansion of the area of interest, which today also includes the alternative and underground press.

*Roberta Trapani, an art historian specializing in outsider environments and visionary architectures (PhD at the Universities of Paris-Nanterre and Palermo), lives in France, where she has taught on contract at some Parisian universities and co-founded several associations dedicated to Outsider Art, including PIF (Patrimoines Irréguliers de France) and CrAB (Collectif de réflexion autour de l'Art Brut).*