



Xing
presents

[festa→]

with

Simon Vincenzi, Marie-Noëlle Genod, Riccardo Benassi, Claudia Castellucci, Michele Rizzo, Mårten Spångberg, Ashes Withyman, Cristina Kristal Rizzo

Bologna, Venezia, Torino, Cesena, Riola, Firenze, Milano

Xing presents **FESTA**, a new project that will take place in 2026 and 2027 in **Bologna, Venice, Turin, Cesena, Riola, Florence, and Milan.**

FESTA is based on **commissions** to artistic personalities, each invited to conceive and create a typology of 'festive event', a **prototype** for an artwork intended as a moment of suspension of the ordinary, in terms of time and manner.

The project draws inspiration from an exhibition of events imagined (but never realized) by art critic Alberto Boatto in 1976 for the GAM Galleria d'Arte Moderna in Bologna. Boatto proposed that art could inhabit a territory removed from any immediate social utility, where it could cultivate an irreducible and poetically fertile individual testimony.

Does a use, or at least an idea, of 'FESTA' exist within our contemporary world? The answer can only initiate a process of exploration.

Tackling a topic as vast and multifaceted as it is misunderstood, overused, and neglected, is perhaps a hazard. From the feria as a break from work to the most banal interpretation of the party; from the picnic to the more ambitious dimension adopted by regimes to celebrate themselves or their founding myths; from the parade to protest marches in their spontaneous codification; from popular and devotional festivals to raves (now illegal, at least in Italy); from the festival to the potlatch; from winter Epiphany fires to the most intimate dimension of private or family celebrations (baptisms, birthdays, weddings, and funerals), what we would like to borrow is only the call for a **(new) propitiatory and non-celebratory appointment**, including its aspect of 'waste'.

FESTA is not a mere occasion for entertainment. Together with the artists, Xing will identify places where **live events** can be created to accompany a state of suspension: in parentheses and outside the operational and functional cycles of the ordinary. A (temporary) change of regime. A series of **situations** that recall one another, punctuated along the arc of a yet-to-be imagined **calendar**.

The artists involved are: **Simon Vincenzi, Marie-Noëlle Genod, Riccardo Benassi, Claudia Castellucci, Michele Rizzo, Mårten Spångberg, Ashes Withyman, Cristina Kristal Rizzo.**

The FESTA 2026-2027 program is part of Xing's research into **Live Arts** for over two decades, showing the amplitude of contemporary practices and languages that manifest in **extended temporality** (duration) marked by **presence**. At the heart of this project is the desire to investigate and reshape the relationship between art and the public.

The overall structure of the FESTA project is inspired by the French Republican Calendar of 1793, a bold historical experiment with which the newly formed republic sought to reshape and rebrand its temporal structure and priorities in relation to the values of its new citizens.

Xing is a cultural organization based in Bologna, Italy, that conceives, develops and curates projects, events and editorial productions characterized by an interdisciplinary approach toward the issues of contemporary culture, with particular attention to generational tendencies and new languages. Since 2000 Xing has presented, produced, supported in Italy and abroad over 1000 artists inventing anomalous formats and platforms connected to time based arts, as well as involving public and private partners. Among the projects that constituted specific survey cycles: Netmage International Live Media Festival (2000>2011), F.I.S.Co. Festival Internazionale sullo Spettacolo Contemporaneo (2000>2011), Live Arts Week (2012>2021). From 2003 Xing has been sustaining a program of research at their own space, Raum. In 2020 Xing launched a new project: Xong collection - artist records, a vinyl-only record label dedicated to personalities linked to





the worlds of performativity. The year 2021 opened a reflection by Xing on the post-pandemic perspectives of live arts, launching an interstitial and communal format: Holes. In 2026-27 the FESTA project punctuates a calendar of propitiatory and not celebratory live events.

Main partners: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna. Media Partners: NERO, Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary.

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Press kit

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