Xing
presents
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[festa¬11 December 2026]
gathering of people who no longer need Art
CLAUDIA CASTELLUCCI
Senz'Arte
Cesena
Centro Comandini
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Friday 11 December 2026, from 9 pm to 1 am, at **Centro Comandini** in **Cesena**, **Xing** presents **'Senz'Arte'**, a new production commissioned to **Claudia Castellucci**, dramaturg, choreographer, school-founder, and co-founder of **Societas Raffaello Sanzio**.
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'Senz'Arte' (convegno di gente che non ha più bisogno dell'Arte) / **'Without Art'** (gathering of people who no longer need Art) is the third event of the **FESTA** project, which takes place in 2026 and 2027in **Bologna, 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.
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'Senz'Arte' employs the format of 'convegno' (literally: coming together in the same place) meaning a distinct way of gathering, being present, and meeting. With the memory of the mythological 'Feste Plebee' held at Teatro Comandini in Cesena during the last millennium, and connecting to the ongoing research on FESTA by Xing, this commissioned project serves as an exemplary episode of 'CONTADO' (a series of periodic gatherings and exercises taking place in a provincial town). It manifests a shared theoretical framework in which recurrence and habit play fundamental roles.
" 'Senz'Arte' represents the acute, ideologically explicit phase of this theory of periodic gatherings. It suggests that living 'without art' is a plausible outcome, provided that this entails a profound questioning of art's habitat and the society it touches." (Claudia Castellucci)
With 'Senz'Arte', Castellucci puts into practice an art of use directed toward the many, in other words, a way of acting that constitutes a social politics of forms. Within the various manifestations of this gathering, the space will be shaped by Dichotomies and Duels: Incubo and Excubo; the nature of sleep versus the nature of wakefulness; the few and the many; deep engagement versus total disinterest; - all interspersed with further inventions and acts of dissipation.
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The **committee** organizing the FESTA in Cesena consists of **Claudia Castellucci**, **Sissj Bassani**, and **Pier Paolo Zimmermann**. "Spaces are the product of a twisting of time: periods, rhymes, and recurring events observed by a group of people effectively constitute a space that is habitable even without a physical location. A condition that cannot last long, yet it already holds within itself the tension of a specific situation. The things that one does give meaning to time: geological, historical, musical. Beyond the parenthesis of dance, an art form chosen as a vessel for navigating the temporal dimension, I have, in the past, established 'fraternal schools': systematic gatherings of friends who would study and create forms emerging from their very meetings. It would perhaps be more accurate to say that we were creating formal societies, structures that were simultaneously social and aesthetic. One could say that all the art I have ever produced has always required the presence of others - a select few - and my most recent experiment was carried out alongside a steering committee called **Contado**. Together, we organized monthly gatherings centered around a bar, modeled after the Blind Pigs of the 1920s, that emerged in North America to circumvent the prohibition on the sale of alcohol." (C. C.)
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Claudia Castellucci
Senz'Arte *(*2026)
(gathering of people who no longer need Art)
preparatory committee Claudia Castellucci with Sissj Bassani and Pier Paolo Zimmermann
a commission by Xing
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Claudia Castellucci is a dramaturg, choreographer and school founder. In 1981, along with her brother Romeo, Chiara Guidi and others, co-founded the Societas Raffaello Sanzio, a theatre company that became well-known worldwide for its theatre rooted in the power of the the visual, plastic, and aural. In 2006, when the Company's artists embarked on distinct research, Claudia Castellucci continued her relationship with the plastic and visual arts producing works rooted in a philosophical practice based on rhythm. This also led her to found several schools with an ancient inspiration, referring to the pleasure of knowledge rather than education: *Theatrical school of the descent* (1989-93), *Stoa* (2003-07), *Mòra* (2015-19) and *Còmia* (2014-2025). In 2011, she led the *École du rythme* in Bordeaux, during the Urban Art Biennial. Since 2014, after launching in Athens, she has been directing *Rhythmic Movement Exercises* worldwide. Her published texts include: *Uovo di bocca* (Bollati Boringhieri, 2000), *Setta Scuola di tecnica drammatica* (Quodlibet, 2015), and *Bollettini della Danza* (Edizioni Sete, 2019). In 2020 she received the Silver Lion at the Venice Dance Biennale.
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The **FESTA 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'. The horizon of possible is still open while the invited artists for FESTA are preparing unusual appointments: from a Farewell to Flesh, to a conference of people who no longer need Art; from a lying-in-state for the Internet to a Wandering Jangle feast...

FESTA are not mere occasions for entertainment but **live events** that accompany a state of suspension, in parentheses and outside the operational and functional cycles of the ordinary. A (temporary) change of regime, and a series of **situations** that recall one another, punctuated along the arc of a yet-to-be imagined **calendar.**

So, what and how can a festivity be today? The artists invited to address this theme include **Simon Vincenzi**, **Riccardo Benassi**, and **Claudia Castellucci**; they will be followed in 2027 by **Michele Rizzo, Mårten Spångberg, Ashes Withyman**, and **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 its audience.

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.
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FESTA is a project conceived and produced by Xing.
Each event is accompanied by a publication, to be collected in a final edition in collaboration with NERO Editions.
Graphic design: Marco Casella.
Partners FESTA Cesena: Regione Emilia-Romagna, Comune di Bologna, Societas. Media Partners: NERO, Edizioni Zero, ATPdiary, NEU Radio.
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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.
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Xing info
Via Ca' Selvatica 4/d - Bologna
info@xing.it
www.xing.it www.xing.it/event/582/senzarte
www.instagram.com/xing.it www.facebook.com/xing.it

Centro Comandini
Corte del Volontariato 22 - Cesena
+39.0547.25566
info@societas.es
www.societas.es
www.instagram.com/societas_teatrocomandini/ www.facebook.com/SocietasTeatroComandini

Free entrance

Overnight accommodation
FESTA offers overnight accommodation in Cesena at an affordable price (Euro 15 per person). Reservations must be made by 7 December. For information and bookings, please contact: prenotazioni@societas.es

Press Kit Claudia Castellucci – 'Senz'Arte'
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/29qxx5v5wsl2stwr5r6u8/APXEDKRVW37qw4nOgYHoz8A?rlkey=xgfa35ogb5vnqiqx6zieu7tw2&dl=0

Press kit FESTA
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8fir0iqdzzamk5oyp7fwr/AEBTsdruxjFuQv6qqSAIXiQ?rlkey=s4y8uuzoi13zs58w0tviu82hv&dl=0

Xing press
mob +39.339.1503608 press@xing.it