

GUENDALINA SALINI a selection of works and exhibitions

RIPARO /Fondazione Pastificio Cerere, Rome, 2018

Investigating the concept of *Riparo* – which means both shelter and repairing.
The exhibition imagined a new sense of community and belonging starting from *Riparo*, a pre-architectural space, a primordial form of protection, the capacity of healing and repairing.
A workshop was held with students and refugees, involving clay, audio recordings, self-narration and it produced a participatory art piece: a village made of little shelters containing many voices and stories; on show also a video in a suitcase; drawings of carpets with diverse patterns and designs made with scented spices, evoking different cultures and traditions.









coffee/ paprika/curcuma drawings

LA CITTA' E IL CIELO - *The city and the sky*/ 2018

The city and the sky is a film that tells the story of a group of men and women of different age and geographical origins, who end up among the ruins of an abandoned village, in Aspromonte, in Calabria region. They try to “dwell”, repair, and recreate a sense of community. This video investigates abandoned places as not merely geographical places, but as psychological ones; in collaboration with MEDU- Doctors for Human Rights, an humanitarian organization based in south of Italy, promoting projects against exploitation of foreign laborers in agriculture.

The recurring element of salt accompanied the narration as a symbol to evoke the sea as well as themes such as preserving (memory, meaning), wisdom and salary- the word *sapienza* and *salario* being rooted in the word salt in Italian.





Video stills from La città e il cielo to watch video go to <https://vimeo.com/208462918>
- password: lafrangia

**THE END OF GEOGRAPHY/ Società Geografica Italiana, Villa
Celimontana, Rome, 2015**

The expression *The end of Geography*, referring to globalisation and homologation of places and culture, became a starting point, a provocation, to develop a new sense of placement and belonging based on openness and proximity, empathy and sharing, responsibility and sustainability.

My investigation has always been interested around themes of estrangement, lack of belonging and the possibility to create new forms of transient, temporary and fragile communities, based on a mobile, open and inclusive sense of identity, as a form of resistance.

This has taken the form of videos, installations, performances, photos as well as curatorial projects.



GEO/EMPATHY:

Private blankets were collected and printed with planispheres



LA CITTA' PERSONALE :

Shot in the abandoned agricultural village of Monteruga, south of Italy
Accompanied by a voice over telling a novel by Italian writer Dino Buzzati,



stills from video



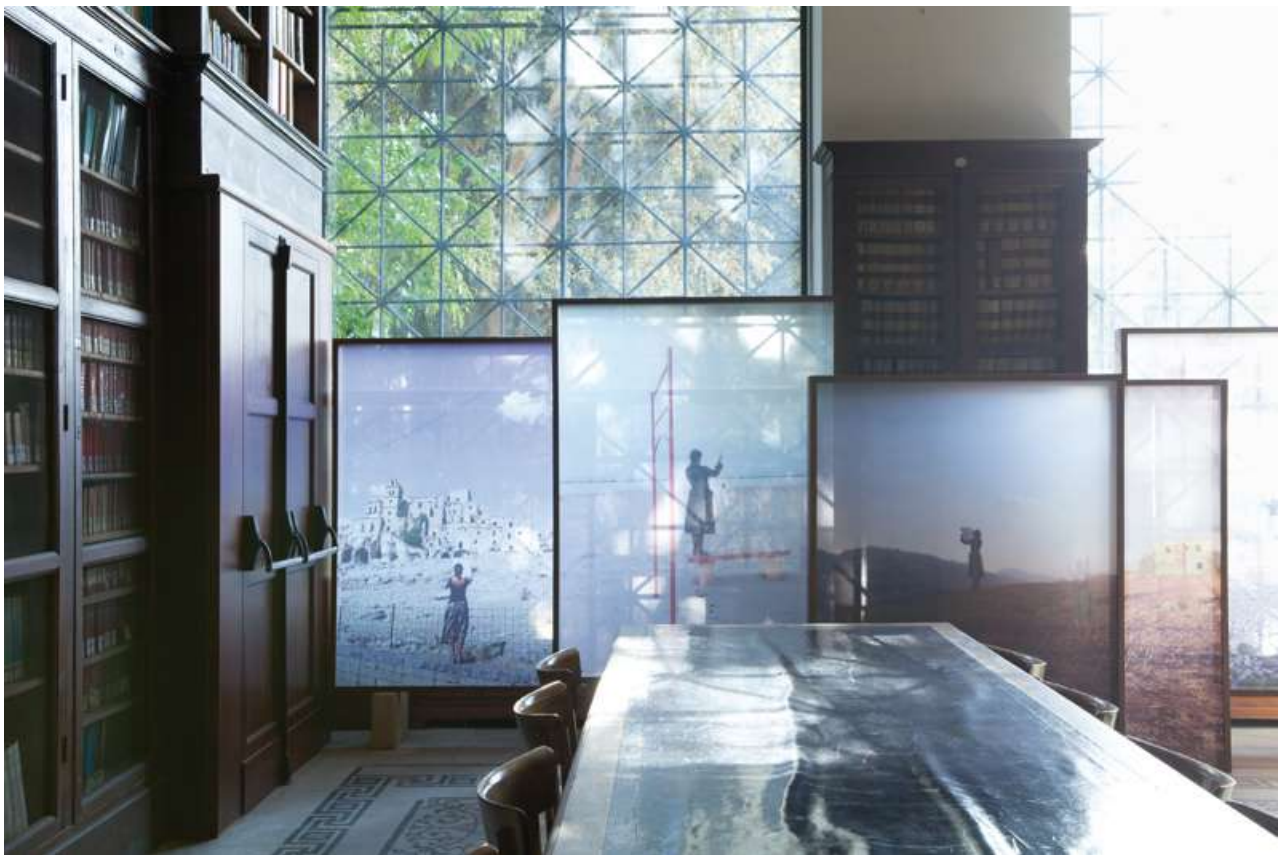
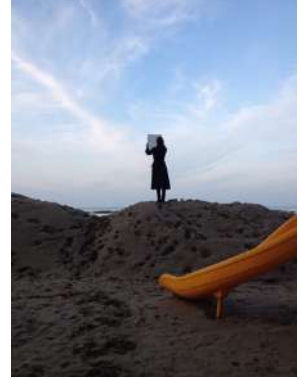
Video projection/ Projected in a fire place



UN TEMPO NEL GUARDARE IL MARE:

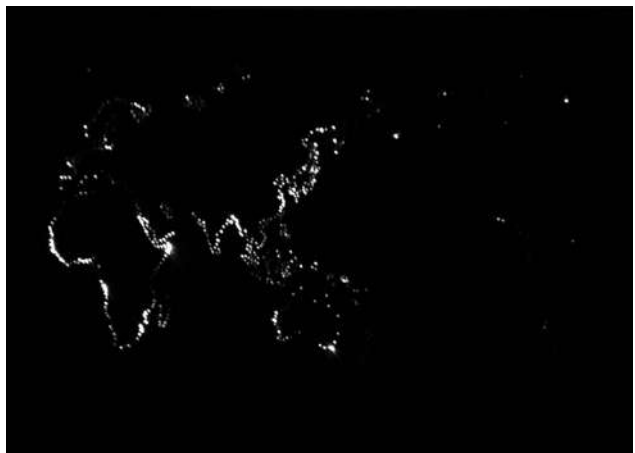
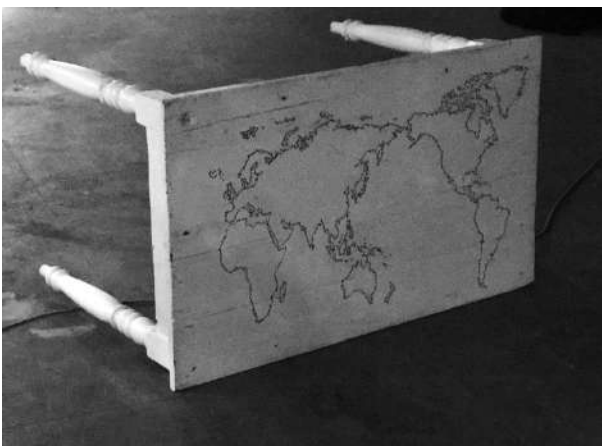
Children writing a text from the Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* performance





THE END OF GEOGRAPHY:

Self- portraits holding a white, erased, empty map, depicting the artist in different sites, Abandoned and metaphysical producing a sense of estrangement staging a sentimental and ironic journey around displacement and loss, isolation and lack of directions, feelings endemic of our contemporary society.



ORIENTAMENTO:

Fishing net /lead drawing/ found icon/ iron star of the winds/ rust

BARRICADE:

Drilled drawing on table/ light

DOVE COMINCIA IL LONTANO *Where does the faraway begin/* MAAM
Museum of the otherness and of the elsewhere, Rome 2011



The community of people living in a squatted, abandoned factory, a multi ethnic group of migrants, gypsies and Italian indigent families form an heterogeneous family and are portrayed on flour-sieves using spices and natural pigments.

The project involves women and children of the community in the making of bread, together with artist Guendalina Salini and curator Silvia Litardi.

A collective ritual ending up with the realization of the portraits of the inhabitants on the walls and on flour-sieves using natural pigments. This process pictures transparent and fragile identities unified around the ancient ritual of bread-making, present in each and single culture and representing an essential symbol, both sacred and common, of care and nourishment, for a *human family* crying for justice.

Art is here a process to cooperate in forms of resistance: active and poetic ways to contrast the impoverishment of nature, people and culture.

The bread was offered on the day of the opening to visitors..





TAPPETO DI SALE Salt Carpet /BOCS ART, COSENZA ART RESIDENCY 2015

The making of a carpet out of salt is accompanied by readings on themes of migrations and eradication, storytelling from Haitian writer Felix Morisseau Leroy, together with testimonies by Mamadou Dai- cultural operator working with MEDU (doctors for human rights) active in south of Italy in refugee camps, with foreigners workers and migrants. The community of the old town of Cosenza was involved in cleaning and making space for the performance in an abandoned roof-less house usually filled with rubbish. Children of local schools were then invited to the performance.



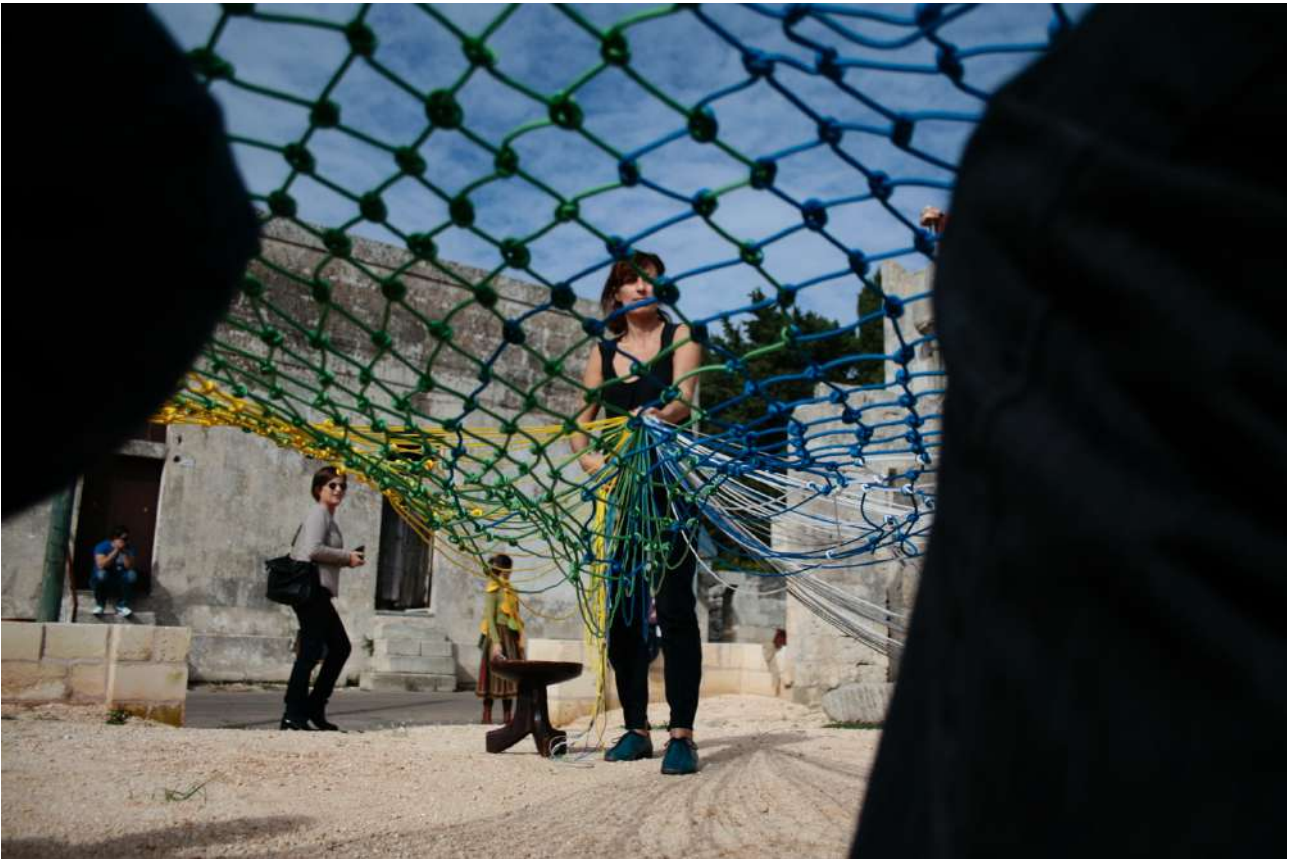


Carpet of salt/ made for La città e il cielo

COME UNITA' /2013

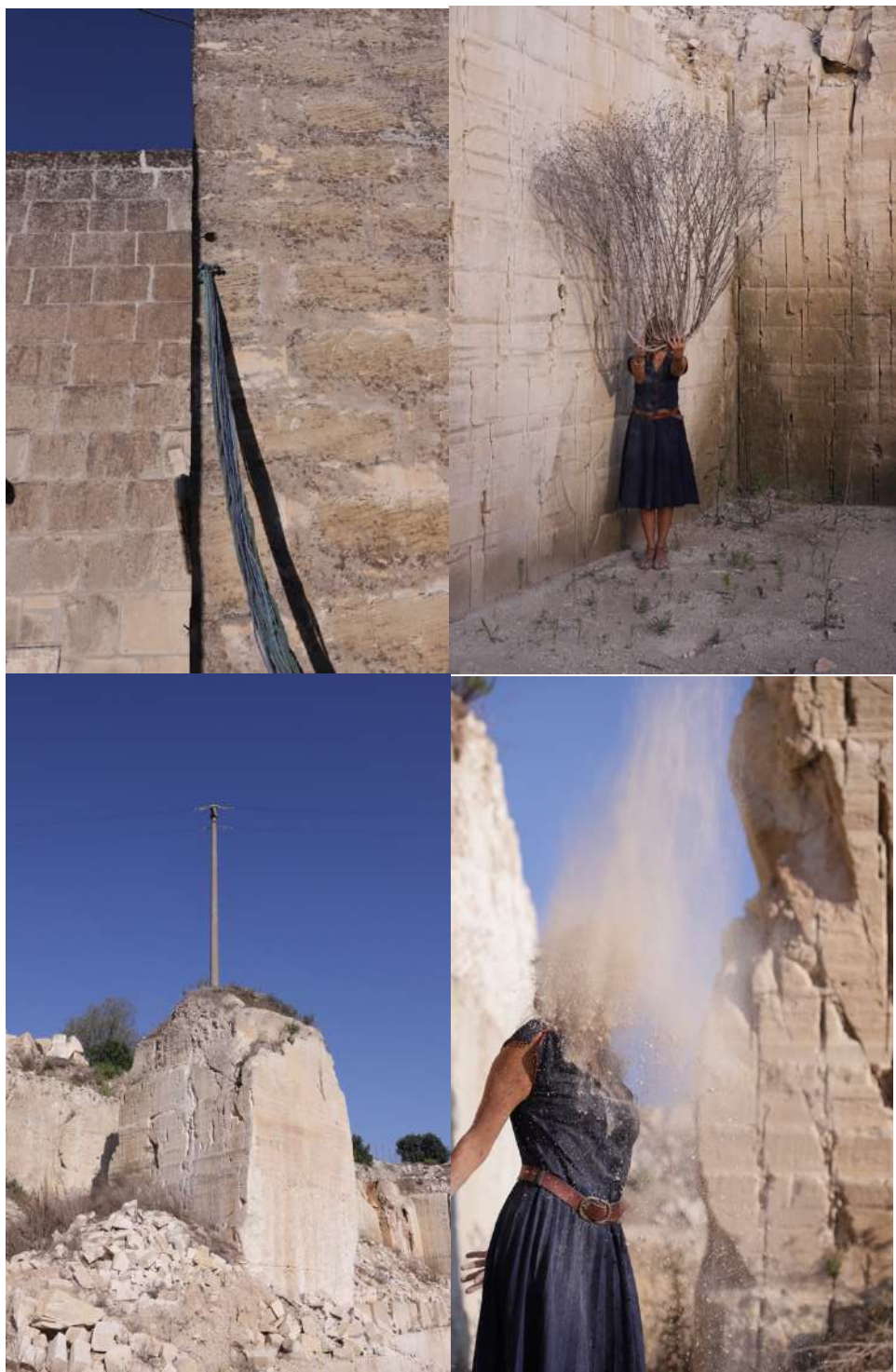
Making a net with the inhabitants of a village in south of Italy and collecting audios and stories.
Interweaving memories, personal and collective narrations from the village.
This process led me to produce the video Un paese ci vuole in 2017



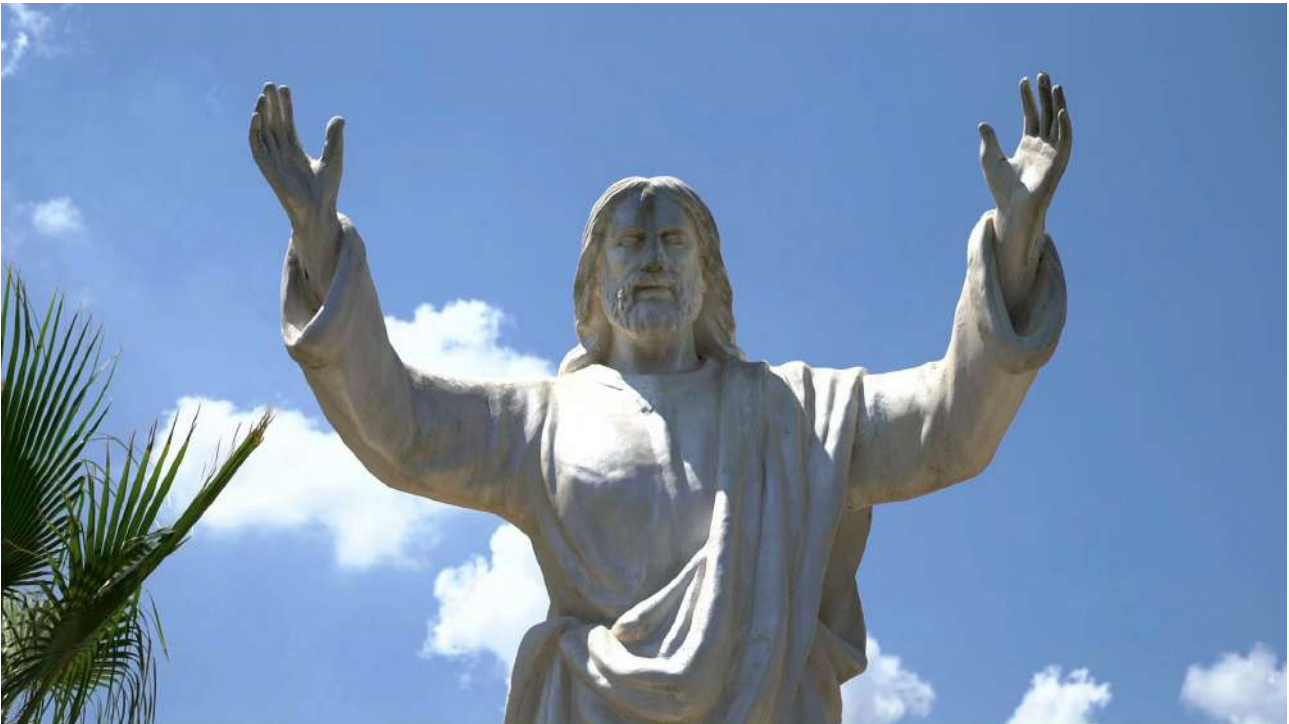


UN PAESE CI VUOLE/ *A village is needed* / Parco senza Confini art residency 2017

A video produced during an artist residency in Puglia, titled after the novel of Cesare Pavese, composed by the stories of the old and the new inhabitants of the village: inclusion and mutual help in a moment of crisis and social change. The family-run industries extracting local limestone- *pietra leccese* - with which statues of saints and architectures were made, are now faced with a reorganization of production and economy, thanks also to new workers coming from Africa.



STILLS from VIDEO:



Se affonderemo, affonderemo tutti insieme,

If we will sink -Europe and Africa- that will be together

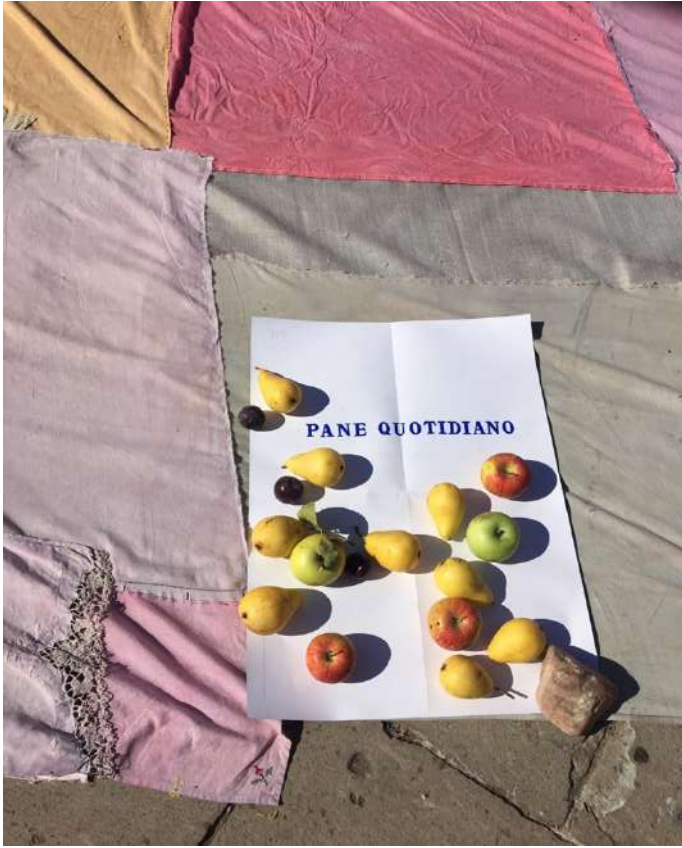
CORAL PIC-NIC / EXMA Exhibiting and Mooving Art, Cagliari, Sardinia 2017

Participatory art work including collecting textiles, tint them with local plants, sewing them together to create a colorful table cloth and offering a picnic to the local community in the museum outdoors









LA MIA PATRIA E' UN FILO D'ERBA CHE TREMA

My homeland is a blade of grass that trembles/

TARANTO/ PRODUCED BY ECCOM AND FONDAZIONE PER IL SUD/ 2017

A series of drawings, mandalas and words were realized together with the local community, seeds of ancient wheat were planted, waiting for them to grow. This was thought as a wish for regeneration and hope, in a very polluted and suffering land. The title of this project comes after the poem of Rocco Scotellaro the countryman, poet and activist from nearby Tricarico, who fighed for the rights of people.







STATO DI NOIA/produced by Matera 2019

People from the six villages composing the old state of Noepoli- the ancient Noja- meaning fertile land but as boredom-are depicted with golden elements. A desolate inner area in the Basilicata region – playing on a game of words boredom become precious and the subject for a new narrative, giving value to everyday people in their territory.



The photos are then exhibited in big format around the villages.



STABAT MATER MACRO Rome 2019

Stabat Mater is an on-going project and it includes portraits of workers who lost their life in the agricultural industry made by ripping off cardboard, these are showed in a dark space emerging thanks to the light of multiple video projection, while the Pergolesi Stabat Mater is played live in a contemporary version by Albanian singer Elsa Lila and her quartet, bringing baroque music from an elitarian listening to a more accessible one using a natural voice and not a lyric one.

(Go to link for performance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk4nbFRr0HU>)

