

Ludovica Carbotta

Monowe (the residence, the lodge, the shelter)

curated by **Ilaria Gianni**

Opening: **Tuesday February 12nd 2019 | 6.30 pm**

13rd February – 26th July 2019

smART - polo per l'arte Foundation

Piazza Crati 6/7, Rome

The **smART – polo per l'arte Foundation** is continuing with the activities it conducted when it was an association and it will be inaugurating its exhibition season with *Monowe (the residence, the lodge, the shelter)*, the first solo exhibition in Rome by the artist **Ludovica Carbotta**, which is curated by **Ilaria Gianni**.

The exhibition, created in collaboration with the architects' collective **Orizzontale**, is a new chapter of the Monowe project. Monowe is an imaginary city planned and designed to be inhabited by a single person, which is above and beyond the existing urban landscape and consists of various elements (architecture, infrastructures, institutions, documents, presences).

Halfway between a ruin and open building site, Monowe aims to replicate the current solitary and individualistic urban lifestyle, radicalizing it so far as to construct an extreme condition for a single person. On the one hand it responds to the growing fear of others, offering an area of protection, and on the other hand it allows us to reflect on the model of a utopian city as a way of rethinking the urban space, going far beyond its usual conformation and function, so that it is no longer a human settlement made up of many individuals but a place dedicated to a single person.

The exhibition presents the living quarters of the only inhabitant of Monowe, who says in an interview with him/herself: «I have not yet decided what to call myself. I am the citizen of Monowe... the only one. I was not born here but this is where I come from [...] It's the place I live in [...] alone with myself. It is located in a parallel dimension. It's not easy to find, but if you want you can look for it. [...] I live in Monowe, I exist and I'm complete "within her"».

On the occasion of *Monowe (the residence, the lodge, the shelter)*, the spaces of the Foundation will take on the form of a house, or rather that of two houses, one grafted onto the other, disturbing each other and creating a spatial short circuit, where two different times and spaces overlap. Real walls and sceneries intersect, leaving a perimeter visible, inside which we can find a chair, a table, a bed, a wardrobe, some objects and windows/screens that can modify the landscape. The house thus contributes towards defining the individual self and the actions or behaviour of the inhabitant of the imaginary city.

Monowe (the residence, the lodge, the shelter) is a reflection not only on the use of space, but also on what it means to live within it. The concept of home or the house has been defined in many different ways, notably by Gaston Bachelard who, in *La Poétique de l'Espace (The Poetics of Space)*, describes it as "our corner of the world, our first universe", and as a "shell" in which to shelter and to find oneself. But what is the configuration of the most intimate space inside a city where the only otherness is represented by the city itself? What is the function of residency in a city that corresponds to you in everything? The exhibition intends to redefine the function of the dwelling, extending it beyond its physical limits, expanding its perimeter beyond its walls, and questioning the very concept of habitation.

Ludovica Carbotta (Torino, 1982) lives and works in Barcelona (ES). Carbotta has completed an MFA at Goldsmiths University in London (2015). Her work has been exhibited in numerous institutions including Drawing Center (New York, US), EACC (Castelló de la Plana, E), La Casa Encendida (Madrid, E), Mambo (Bologna, IT), Palazzo Fortuny (Venice, IT) Kunstlerhaus Museum (Graz, AU), MAXXI Museum (Rome, IT), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin, IT), Hangar Bicocca (Milan, IT), Dublin Contemporary (Dublin, IRL), Matadero (Madrid, E), Swiss Institute (Rome, IT), Les Instants Chavirés (Paris, FR). Recent solo exhibitions: *Monowe (the residence, the lodge, the shelter)*, Fondazione smART – polo per l'arte, Roma (2019), *Artissima Present Future*, Torino (2018), *Marselleria*, New York (2018), *Marta Cervera Gallery*, Madrid (2017), *ON Public - Monowe*, Bologna (2016), *A motorway is a very strong wind*, Care Of, Milan (2014); *Vitrine 270° - Without Walls*, Galleria Arte Moderna, Turin (2013); *Greater Torino*, Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Turin (2011).

She is the co-founder of *Progetto Diogene*, an International Residency Program in the public space (Turin – www.progettodiogene.eu) and *The Institute of Things to Come*, a research centre on futurological scenarios (www.theinstituteofthingstocome.com). She was awarded the *Ariane de Rothschild Prize*, Milan (2011), the Premio Gallarate (2016), International Fellowship Gasworks, London (2016), and the Special Mention at Premio ITALIA, MAXXI Museum, Rome (2016). In 2017 she is fellow researcher at Jan Van Eyck Academie, in Maastricht, in 2018 recipient of New York Prize, ISCP/Columbia University.

Orizzontale are an architects' collective based in Rome whose work crosses the fields of architecture, urbanism, public art, and DIY practice. Orizzontale since 2010 has been promoting projects of common relational spaces, giving form to both dismissed and unseen images of the city. These projects have represented the ground for experimenting new kinds of collaborative interactions between city dwellers and urban commons as well as occasions to test the boundaries of the architectural creation process.

Orizzontale has developed projects in Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Greece, Ukraine, Portugal, Netherlands. "8 ½", the mobile theatre designed by orizzontale in 2014, was awarded the international prize of Young Architects Program ("YAP MAXXI 2014") by MAXXI Museum and MoMA PS1. In 2018 at the Venice Biennale, orizzontale is awarded the "Young Talent of Italian Architecture 2018", which rewards the best Italian under 35 practice.

Our Team: Jacopo Ammendola, Juan Lopez Cano, Giuseppe Grant, Margherita Manfra, Nasrin Mohiti Asli, Roberto Pantaleoni, Stefano Ragazzo.