

RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Florence, via della Fornace 41

January 11, 2024

12:00 p.m.

Press conference at Rifugio Digitale with the **artist**, the **curator** and the **Deputy Mayor of the City of Florence Alessia Bettini**

6:30 p.m.

Inauguration of the event at Rifugio Digitale with the **artist** and the **curator**

From January 11 to 21, 2024, Rifugio Digitale presents the exhibition *Cosmo* by Alessandro Messina, a digital re-edition of the project on the theme of anti-portrait curated by Sergio Risaliti. In collaboration with Forma Edizioni, the opening will take place on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., with the participation of the artist and the curator.

With *Cosmo*, Alessandro Messina asks each of us to exist, but at the same time his focus is a paean to absence, to the cult of absence and a search for a new balance through a reshaping of the ego. Man finds his dimension within his own spaces: the architectural outlines of the world he has built and that he experiences as an integral part of himself. The solitude of the subjects of his photos is not meant as abandonment but as something with which we have to deal every day, an act of immersion in our thoughts, in the mundane or important choices we make, in which we turn out to be very small with respect to the world.

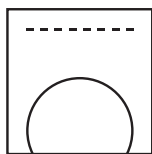
Messina's photos share an introspective and reflective attitude, mirroring a sensitivity that attempts to give form to the distance between individuals and the objects that surround them. The camera, constantly calibrated through a conceptual filter, extracts from every landscape the basic structures underlying it, making the universal stand out from the particular. It is a spatial movement that contrasts with the timeless immobility in which Messina's images seem immersed, suggesting that we would do well to stop and look.

«A beautiful journey of exploration of the human essence through the introspective art of Alessandro Messina that Rifugio Digitale brings with this exhibition to the community,» said Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Culture **Alessia Bettini**, «but also an invitation to reflection on the importance of a renewed balance in our inner spaces and the scanning of time, which are increasingly fundamental to regaining a deep sense of the self and the we».



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RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Alessandro Messina was born in 1976 in the town of La Spezia, Italy, where he grew up and honed his skills for the dual career of musician-photographer. As a musician, he published four albums between 2008 and 2016, while also working professionally as a photographer. His photographic activity was not exclusively commercial, however, as he also worked on personal artistic projects, proceeding in two directions: portraiture first of all, and a more recent project entitled *Cosmo*, which is his personal representation of the anti-portrait.

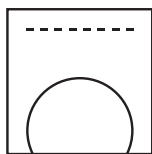
Cosmo
Alessandro Messina
cured by Sergio Risaliti
January 11-21, 2024
Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Rifugio Digitale
via della Fornace, 41
50125 - Firenze (FI)

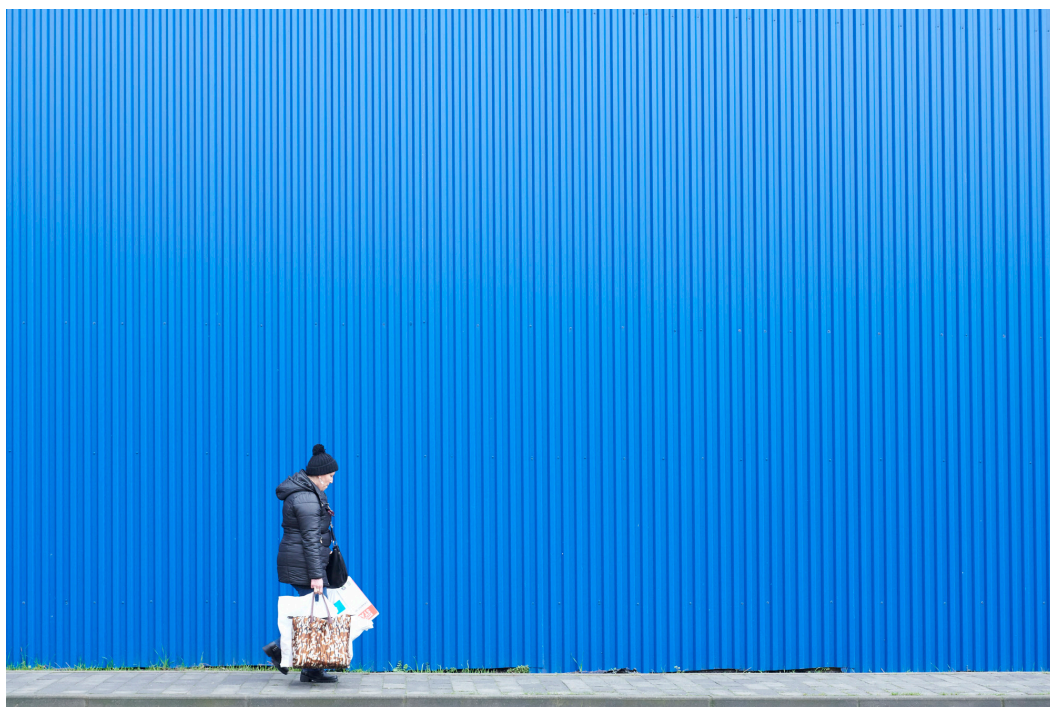


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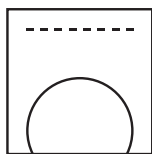


Alessandro Messina, *Cosmo*, 2023.



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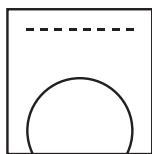
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RIFUGIO DIGITALE



Alessandro Messina, *Cosmo*, 2023.



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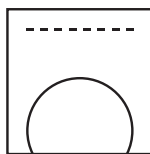


Alessandro Messina, *Cosmo*, 2023.



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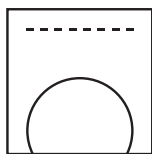
Alessandro Messina

Alessandro Messina was born in 1976 in the town of La Spezia, Italy, where he grew up and honed his skills for the dual career of musician-photographer. As a musician, he published four albums between 2008 and 2016, the first two with the Internòs band and the last two with the U-bit band. Simultaneously, he worked professionally as a photographer, initiating collaborations in the fashion field and events connected with brands like Diesel, Valextra, Marni and Napapijri. His photographic activity was not exclusively commercial, however, as he also worked on personal artistic projects, proceeding in two directions: portraiture first of all, and a more recent project entitled Cosmo, which is his personal representation of the anti-portrait.



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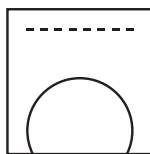


Alessandro Messina



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RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Cosmo

Alessandro Messina

curated by Sergio Risaliti

11-21.01.2024

MOSTRA PROMOSSA DA
AN EXHIBITION PROMOTED BY
Rifugio Digitale

IN COLLABORAZIONE CON
IN COLLABORATION WITH
Forma Edizioni

DIREZIONE ARTISTICA
ART DIRECTION
Laura Andreini

MOSTRA A CURA DI
EXHIBIT CURATED BY
Sergio Risaliti

COORDINAMENTO SCIENTIFICO
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION
Beatrice Papucci
Andrea Benelli
Chiara Mezzabotta
Margot Modonesi
Fabio Gnassi
Arianna Iodice

TRADUZIONI
TRANSLATIONS
Katherine Fay

MUSICA DI
MUSIC OF
Alessandro Messina

UFFICIO STAMPA E COMUNICAZIONE
PRESS OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION
Associazione Rifugio Digitale
Niccolò Natali
Giulia Guasti

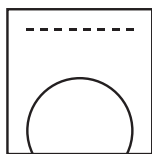
PROGETTO GRAFICO E DI ALLESTIMENTO
GRAPHIC AND SET-UP PROJECT
Alessandro Messina
Forma Edizioni

INSTALLAZIONE VIDEO
VIDEO INSTALLATION
TNT Events S.r.l.



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RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Forma Edizioni

Forma is an editorial (publishing) initiative developed in order to allow the dissemination and knowledge of avenues and experiences belonging to the world of art, architecture photography and more generally, to promote the best research in production and technology, following the changing lifestyles and contemporary living. Since its foundation in 2010, the catalogue has grown with about twenty titles a year giving "form" to the expressive traces that animate today's cultural debate, deepening both specific areas of knowledge already known to the public, and investigating those intellectual and artistic areas considered, for various reasons, revealing new points of observation of reality. A common feature of each project is the high quality of the product, images, printing, typographic or IT processes used, as well as a targeted diffusion and distribution in places of use, such as specialized bookstores, museum bookshops and exhibition sites, which they add to the normal availability on the net that necessary and indispensable presence in the "sites" where opinions and evaluations of merit are built. The publications range from, important monographs dedicated to contemporary and renowned architectural works, such as *Cantina Antinori, to chronicle of the construction of a new landscape*, research and insights related to university study issues, catalogues of important exhibitions, such as the one hosted at the Cini Foundation of Venice *EST. Italian travel, city and architecture stories* curated by Luca Molinari or the monographic exhibition hosted at the MAXXI Museum in Rome *Gio Ponti. Love architecture* in 2019. Exhibitions and events expand the cultural enhancement process that Forma sets out to offer to a refined and attentive public. The publishing house is in fact involved in the creation of volumes relating to the exhibitions annually hosted at the Forte di Belvedere in Florence or at the Stefano Bardini Museum and to the monographic exhibitions hosted in private galleries dedicated to artists of the calibre of Alighiero Boetti, Arnaldo Pomodoro, Lucio Fontana and Alberto Burri. There is no shortage of photography and design texts, such as the important monograph dedicated to the work and life of Karim Rashid, or the overview of contemporary Milanese design *The Design City. Milan city laboratory*. The on the road city architectural guide series is currently under construction. Mainly focused on contemporary works, each volume investigates the peculiar aspects of the most important cities in the world, proposing a critical reading of future scenarios. The publishing house has counted important collaborations with personalities of high intellectual depth and international fame such as the late Adolfo Natalini, founder architect of Superstudio, Bruno Corà, Luca Massimo Barbero and Sergio Risaliti, art critics and historians, Luca Molinari, architecture critic.

Forma Edizioni

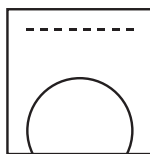
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RIFUGIO DIGITALE

Rifugio Digitale

Rifugio Digitale (Digital Refuge) is a new exhibition space in a former bomb shelter tunnel repurposed as a site devoted to the promotion of digital art, where architecture, design, photography, cinema, literature and all the other multiple forms of art and visual expression find their dimension and interact with one another. It was built on the foundations of an old anti-aircraft tunnel that served from 1943 as a bomb shelter in World War II. It was known as the "Forge Refuge" a safe haven during the tragedy of the war, and now it has been rechristened as the "Digital Refuge," a place of rebirth, where technology meets art, offering a contemporary space where people can explore creativity through the modern language of technology.

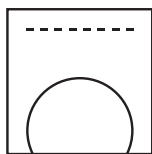
The requalification project, handled by Archea Associati, will house digital expressions of every kind, with an eye always on the future and on the new vanguards. In collaboration with the publisher Forma Edizioni, it will house exhibitions, but also events and performances related to art, architecture, photography, literature, cinema and other initiatives linked to the digital world. It will show original views and more on the 16 screens positioned along the 33 meters of the tunnel, a new idea for Florence where the connection between art, people and technology generates an intense visual experience, unexpected and interactive. It is a space designed for constant change, always dynamic, with a new and exciting speed that distinguishes it from a traditional art gallery.

Rifugio Digitale occupies an area of 165 square meters and is a versatile structure ideal for organizing exhibitions, events, presentation, but also debates, lectures and simple discussions. It is expected to appeal to a vast public desirous of indulging their interest in ideas and novel cultural experiences right in the heart of Florence.

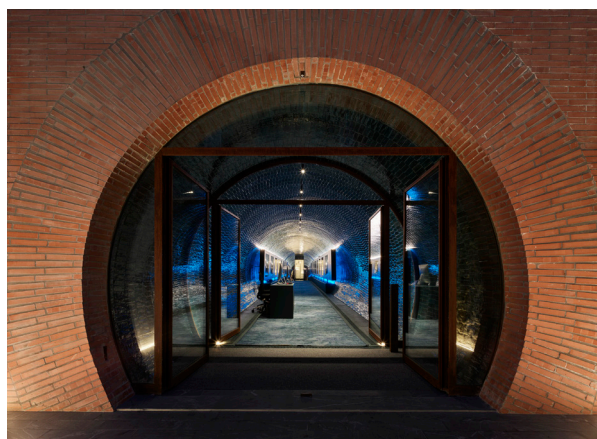


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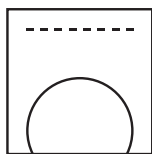
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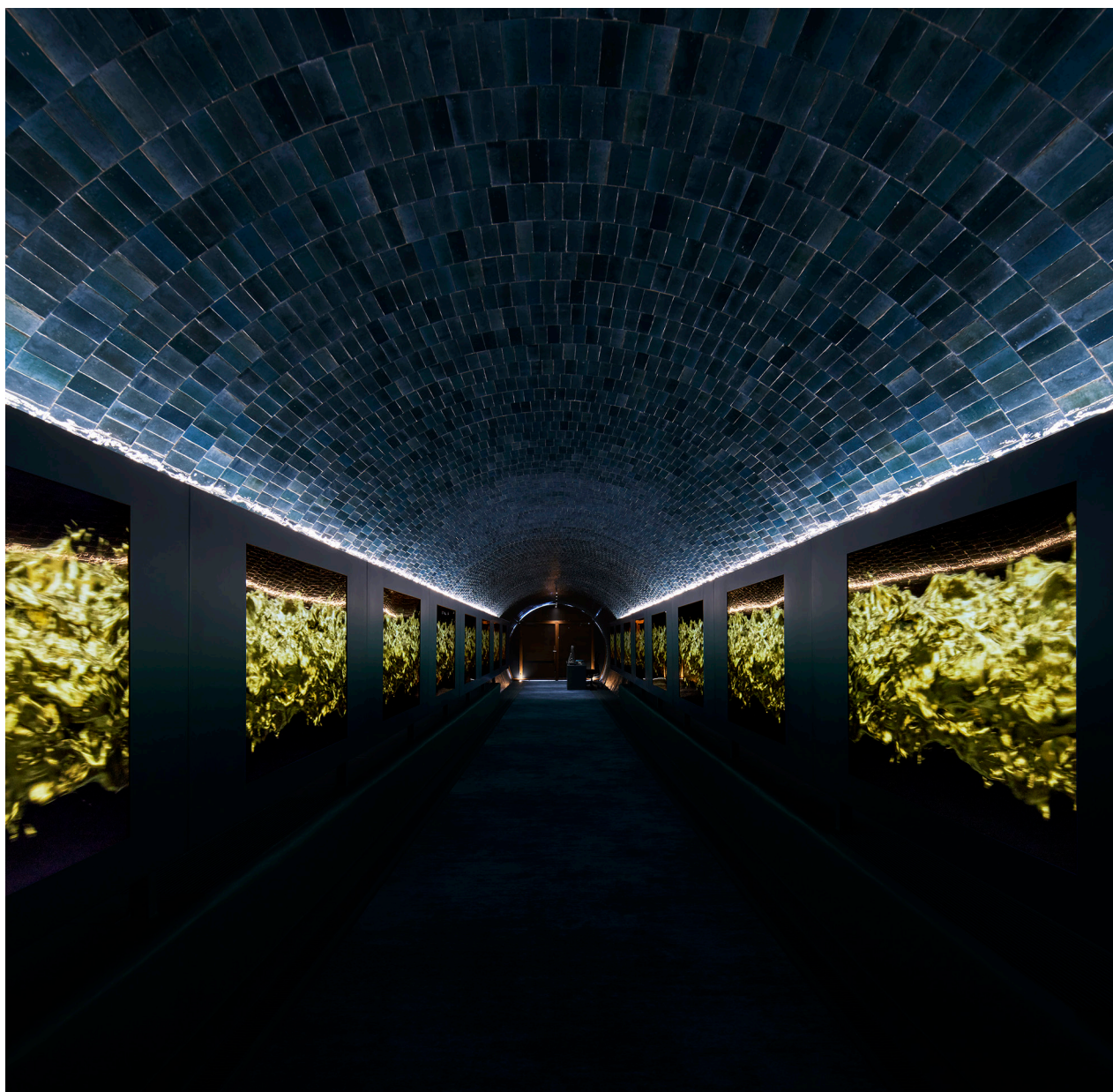
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Archea Associati, Rifugio Digitale, Florence, 2022
ph. Pietro Savorelli & Associati



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