

IWC FOUNDATION

Land Art Galleries

APPROPRIATING NATURE



Leonarda Faggi, Femke van Gemert, and Amadi Greenstein

June 21st until July 12th

Opening June 21st, 2024, 7pm - 9pm

The IWC Foundation is proud to announce *Appropriating Nature*, a collaborative land art exhibition produced by an international group of women artists: Leonarda Faggi (b. Urbania, 1970), Femke van Gemert (b. Amsterdam, 1975), and Amadi Greenstein (b. Oakland, 1996). These amazing fiber artists have worked together in Rome to transform Piazza del Popolo into an oasis of natural colors, textures, and shapes. Inspired by the monument wrappings of Christo and Jean Claude, this installation overtakes the viewer's eye by standing tall at 30 .

Curated by Isabel Coopersmith, *Appropriating Nature's* intention is to bring out feelings of connectedness, ecology, and memory through fibers in an anthropomorphized city such as Rome. It is not always clear how deeply rooted fiber arts are within nature, whether that be the environment or human nature, but this exhibition brings natural qualities to the surface using organic dyes and materials, evoking familiarity from the texture.

This exhibition is located in Piazza del Popolo between the heavily trafficked Porta Flaminia and Villa Borghese, one of Rome's largest parks. Textiles made from entirely recycled materials have been located throughout the courtyard, around the fountains and the obelisk. The stark contrast between the asphalt of the piazza to the greenery of the park is juxtaposed by the monumental weavings. It will be available for 3 weeks and people have the invitation to interact as the works become one with the city.

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Leonarda Faggi:

Currently based in Fossombrone, Urbino, Italy, Faggi has been working with textiles for much of her life. She graduated from Mengaroni Pesaro high school with a focus in textile art and started working for a clothing treatment company. Later in her career, she left the company and started working as an eco artist, specializing in giving a second life to objects by using solely raw materials and found objects in her art. Faggi has been focused on creating a sense of humanity and nature with her work and has curated many site-specific exhibitions. Her site-specific works have been closely intertwined with the history, material, and nature of the place itself, going as far to make many of the works in the place where they will be displayed. "Treat the imprint of a place to grasp its essence. Speak about its evolution between nature and history."

(Past Exhibitions: Church of S. Maria Delle Grazie, *In Loco*, 2023, Fermignano, Urbino, Italy; Church of S. Agostino, *La Mia Natura*, 2022, Fossombrone, Italy; Palazzo Bonaventura Odasi, *Dualità*, 2022, Urbino, Italy)

Amadi Greenstein:

Currently based in Palo Alto, California, Greenstein graduated from the California College of Arts in 2019. Since then, she has participated in many exhibitions with the inclusion of solo and collective. This is Greenstein's second international exhibition. Her works consist of weavings made from fibers, film, and found objects. As she was brought up as an adopted child by a Jewish family, her works speak to themes of identity, isolation and mindfulness with a strong emphasis on nostalgia achieved through color, light, form, and texture. "Textiles encompass life through the sentimental value of memories, materials, and evolves our way of living."

(Past exhibitions: Artly mix, *In Natura*, 2023, São Paulo, Brazil; Doncaster Art Fair, *Art As A Response To Mental Healthy*, Online Gallery, 2023, South Yorkshire, UK; Oakland Museum of California, *Textiles Re-Mixed*, 2022, Oakland, California, USA; Sobre Mesa, *Collective Exhibition*, 2021, Oakland, California, USA; Vacant Museum, *State of Repair*, 2021, Online Gallery; Alternative Gallery Space, *The Sight*, 2020, Online Gallery; ARTivism Initiative, *This Is A Movement, Not A Moment*, 2020, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA; Healdsburg Center for the Arts, *The Next Generation*, 2020, Healdsburg, California, USA; Oliver Art Center Gallery, *Secluded Silence*, 2019, Oakland, California, USA (solo))

Femke van Gemert:

Currently based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Gemert has a long history in textile work. She started as a fashion designer but quickly shifted to working as an environmental textile artist when she had a revelation about fast fashion waste. Her work consists of wall hangings and tapestries made solely of textile waste and organic dyes. She is inspired by the stories of her donated textiles, historical craft, and organic shapes within nature that have been produced by waste. "Every textile that is made is full of development, knowledge, craftsmanship, of centuries and centuries of hands making and creating."

(Past exhibitions: Mia Karlova Galerie, several exhibitions and Pan Amsterdam, 2021, Amsterdam The Netherlands; PAN Amsterdam by Mia Karlova Galerie, 2021, the Netherlands; Waste is Value, Henderson Land, curated By Rosanna Orlandi, 2021, Hong Kong; La Manufacture, A Labour of Love, Gare Saint Sauveur, 2020 Lille, France; Artist Residency + community project, Casa Wabi, 2019 Puerto Escondido Oaxaca, Mexico; Ro Plastic Prize Exhibition, Galleria Rossana Orlandi, 2019 + 2020, Milan, Italy; DoornBurgh buitenplaats voor kunst en wetenschap, 2018/2019/2020, Maarssen, the Netherlands; Gedenkplaats Fort Nigtevecht, 2018 Abcoude, the Netherlands; Nature Meets Art & Design, Gallery Post Erasmuslaan 5, 2018 Utrecht, the Netherlands; Springhouse Amsterdam, artist residency + community project, 2017/18, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Inspiratiehuis Gouda, solo exhibition Sept-October 2015, the Netherlands; Enlightened Design, London Design week 2016, London, Great Britain; Made, Mercado de Arte Design, August 2015, São Paulo, Brazil)

Each of these artists have brought a unique point of view to this exhibition. With interweaving of their personal artist missions, each artist is recognized. Together they have created a work that speaks to history, environmentalism, and the memory of humanity.

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