Province of Salerno

 Campania Region

 TURISM AND

CULTURAL HERITAGE

DEPARTMENT

**Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities**

DIreCTORATE-GENERAL FOR THE PRESERVATION AND QUALITY

OF THE LANDSCAPE, CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE AND ART

SUPERINTENDENCE FOR

THE ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE

SUPERINTENDENCE FOR THE HISTORICAL, ARTISITIC

AND ANTROPOLOGICAL HERITAGE

FOR THE PROVINCES OF SALERNO AND AVELLINO

 **Council of Padula Mountain Community** **Cilento and Vallo di Diano**

 **Vallo di Diano National Park**

*Press release, 05.09.2008*

**Natura e Arte in Certosa/Nature and Art at the Charterhouse**

**Ortus Artis e Fresco Bosco/**

**ortus artis and cool forest**

*Event devised and curated by Achille Bonito Oliva*

**Venue** Charterhouse of San Lorenzo, Padula (Salerno)

**Duration**  5 September 2008 - 8 January 2009

It is an extraordinary event of contemporary art linked to a historical setting. The monumental compound of the Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula and its centuries-old park become the background for **Natura e Arte in Certosa: Ortus Artis e Fresco Bosco/Nature and Art at the Charterhouse: Ortus Artis and cool forest**, devised and curated by **Achille Bonito Oliva**. The event presents internationally known artists whose **sculptures**, **paintings**, **photographs**, **installations**, **performances** and **creations of contemporary gardens** in the cells of the monks can be admired. This event comes after the expositions "Le opere e i giorni/Works and Days" (2002-2003-2004) and "Ortus Artis" (2003-2004-2006).

The show is promoted by the **Superintendence of Salerno and Avellino** and it is made with the funds from the **Campania Region**.

Achille Bonito Oliva says: "if **Ortus Artis** carries the new challenge of a comparison with a past not directly tangible, almost imaginary, in order to bring back to life the cells of which almost nothing has been preserved, **Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest** marks therelocation of art from within the Charterhouse to the outside and reinvents the Park, staging events of great spectacular nature in a Baroque celebratory-like atmosphere".

On the evening of the grand opening the audience will take part in what is defined by the curator himself as a moment of synthesis of arts where the celebratory aspect involves the whole monumental compound. 'Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest' leads the visitors on a journey towards the knowledge of the new languages of contemporary times, observed and represented in their multiple artistic and poetical expressions.

**Francesco Arena** with the installation *Nicchie con aureole/Recesses with halos* uses a place that used to be a shed for agricultural tools, turning it into a storeroom for halos which, orphans of their owners, light up themselves in reliquary-boxes. **Chiara Camoni** with *Appunti per una scultura/Notes for a sculpture* proposes a plaster sculpture of a full sized man, to be placed on the ground, which contains a double possibility, a reversal of space and meaning. *Pavimento#1/Floor#1* is the title of the work by **Flavio Favelli**, the remaking of a module of 250x200cm of the marble floor placed in the park evoking the patterns of the paving of the Charterhouse. **Marcello Cinque** creates a sculpture similar to a white rock, made with a sponge imbued with cement and carbon fiber called *Fiore/Flower*. The installation by **Matteo Fraterno** is born from the idea of opposing the underground space for storing the snow ("neviera"), formerly used to preserve ice, to the heat of materials such as sand and lava stone which fill to a depth of 10m: on a staircase at the top of the "neviera" a soprano sings the original Neapolitan song "Scalinatella". **Giancarlo Neri** transforms the landscape into a map and the map into the territory with *Voi siete qui/You are here*, a sort of huge sign placed in a clearing. *Siamosiete/Weareyouare*, the neon installation by **Pietro Costa**, consists of 6 luminous boxes placed among the trees of the garden, and focuses on the themes of identity and guilt; the artist chooses common things, such as plastic waste bins, to underline the contrast between what is holy and what is profane in art, in religion and in our moral choices. **Franco Silvestro** presents a series of full sized ceramic figures in order to deal with the social theme of the hottest area in the South of Italy, while **Bartolomeo Migliore** through the words of *Burning Humus*, written with tin to form a circle of 2m in the ground, tells of the urban landscape of the area. The history of the Charterhouse creates the background for the work by **Francesco Bocchini** who with *Condominio infinito/Infinite block of flats*, a typical shelving unit lit up from the inside, tells the story of friars and illustrious men who over time inhabited this picturesque place of prayer. Among the sculptures placed in the park worth mentioning are: *Vittoria non finita/Unfinished Victory* by the Polish **Krzyszstof Bednarski**, a work made up of gasbeton blocks, which represents a giant hand closed with the two fingers up in the typical sign of victory, with the two phalanxes unfinished; the marble block by **Giuseppe Capitano**; the metal column by **Pietro Fortuna**, about 3m in height with side bands, forming a sort of diapason. The Australian **Lawrence Carroll** will make a *site-specific* work in one of the cells of the Charterhouse.

The works will stay on **permanent display** increasing the already substantial collection:photographs, paintings and installations will be, in fact, placed within the Charterhouse to create a proper **museum of contemporary art** in the places sacred to the Carthusian monks.

**Gabriele Basilico** proposes an evocative photograph of the city of Beirut, already part of the photographic series presented at the 2007 Biennale of Venice. By **Lucia Lamberti** the canvas of 2008, *Executive Target*, has been chosen and is part of the series "A un braccio di distanza/At arm distance", a series inspired by movie subjects reprocessed through traditional techniques. The Israeli artist **Shai Frisch Peri** created a wall installation made up of a surface assembled with electrical components, while **Paolo Picozza** painted a large canvas with tar and paper glued on the surface. The photograph by **Sergio Picciaredda**, *Pool*, reflectsa personal vision of reality, caught in the soul of many details. *Spazio Ottanta, Barcellona/Space Eighty, Barcellona* presents a fascinating image of the Spanish city: **Lorenza Lucchi Basili** portrays contemporary habitats under the conditions of perception at the moment of the photo taking. **Gianfranco Baruchello** presents the video *Il bosco/The forest*, where a stroll becomes the sensitive space of imagination: the forest is also the result of care, maintenance and restoration of a historical site, that is the Etruscan road which joined the old Veio to Sacrofano. Another interesting video is screened: *Symbiosis* by the Greek artist **Mary Zygouri** is part of the project “Fattening Cells” and reflects on the thorny theme of the relationship between Authority and the Masses.

**Luca Campigotto**, **Raffaela Mariniello** and **Francesco Acone**, who present *Mesopotam*, bring back to life the old spaces of the Charterhouse through poetical photographs, while **Mauro Di Silvestre** and **Luca Padroni** exhibit painting works.

Also of exceptional quality are the **performances** on the programme: the show of *Electronic Art Cafè* by **Umberto Scrocca** proposes *Soft Self-Portrait of Salvador Dalì*, a documentary video on the life of the surrealist artist as told by Orson Welles, while **Domenico Mennillo-lunGrabbe** is the main character of *La Maison de Rêve*, rehash of an architectural-musical project by the composer La Monte Young. This performance gives life to a real “stanza nel verde/room in the green”, where a man and a woman live, which is animated by a constant musical background (“treated” melodic music and electronic music). *La Classe Morta/The Dead Class* is the title of the show by **Guidarello Pontani** where real actors will call, like in a real roll call, long deceased actors. The class, i.e. the stage space, will suddenly come to life with conversations, monologues and imaginary gestures: artists, actors, directors, poets, writers and other significant characters of the last decades thus take form, carrying the spectator between space and time, in a place attended only by gods.

**Ortus Artis** is dedicated to the reinterpretation of the **gardens of two cells** of the Charterhouse which the floods at the end of the Ninth Century had completely destroyed. The event marks a moment of encounter between landscape and architecture, nature and art; at the same time it is the occasion for comparison and development of the most up-to-date ideas in the field of contemporary landscaping, internationally and nationally.

For this edition the project of **cell no. 26** gets to be made, devised by the students of the University of Dresden: Caroline Liedtke, Knut Maywald, Anne Schäfer and Annegret Stöcker who with the work *Derekonstruktion* have won "Ortus Artis 2006 - IV Workshop internazionale del paesaggio e del giardino contemporaneo/IV International Workshop of landscape and contemporary garden". The German university has thus prevailed on the other institutes that participated, studying a project in which they registered a universal sensitivity which doesn't give up the dialogue with nature. Cell no. 26 is one of the restored ones, where, thanks to recent excavations, they discovered traces of the cell itself and of the walls around it.

Moreover the rich soil of Ortus Artis brought to life the innovative contest, completely on-line, for the re-processing of the garden of **cell no. 25**, in which 368 groups of architects, representative of all the continents, took part. The group of landscapers 'Archi-Pelagus' of Rome, consisting of Simone Ferretti, Stylianos Kountalis and Tiziana Pescosolido, has won with the project *Riflessioni/Reflections*, where the essentiality of the space becomes a starting point to the reflection on life, means to exceed the material dimension and rise towards the spiritual one. The rooms inside the cell, restored and reclaimable thanks to the conservational refurbishing by the Superintendence, hold photographic pieces which enrich the collection of contemporary works already gathered in the Charterhouse.

**Maria Giovanna Sessa**, Director of the Charterhouse points out: “The Charterhouse of Padula becomes a fundamental stop in the journey of knowledge towards the complex contemporary sensitivity, where the artistic, architectural, poetical and spiritual dimensions converse and create a unity of meaning through the fusion of past and present”.

**Gennaro Miccio**, Custodian of the Charterhouse, says: "For the first time this year, 'Fresco Bosco/Cool Forest', enriched with new interventions by internationally known artists, merges with Ortus Artis, the project that gave new life to the gardens of the cells, metaphor of the food for the soul. Thus what is created is an ideal continuity between the life at the monastery and creativity which trespasses and inhabits the *desertum*".

The external coordination is by Giuliana Picarelli and Martina Cavallarin.

For info about the location visit the website [www.comune.padula.sa.it](http://www.comune.padula.sa.it/)

**Details**

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**Curated by Achille Bonito Oliva**

**Venue** Charterhouse of San Lorenzo in Padula (Salerno)

**Exh. Duration** 5 September 2008 - 8 January 2009

**Opening Hours** 9am-7.30pm daily. Closed Tuesday.

Closed on 25 December, 1 and 6 January 2009.

**Entrance fee** € 4.00 full price

free up to 18yr and beyond 65yr

50% discount from 18yr to 25yr

**Guided tours of the Park** free

**How to get there** The Charterhouse is 104km south of Salerno, highway A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria, exit Padula-Buonabitacolo. It is about 8km away from the highway exit.

**Info Charterhouse of Padula Ph. 0975. 77745**

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