

## Il Canto del Capro

by GianMarco Porru  
20.01–27.02.2023

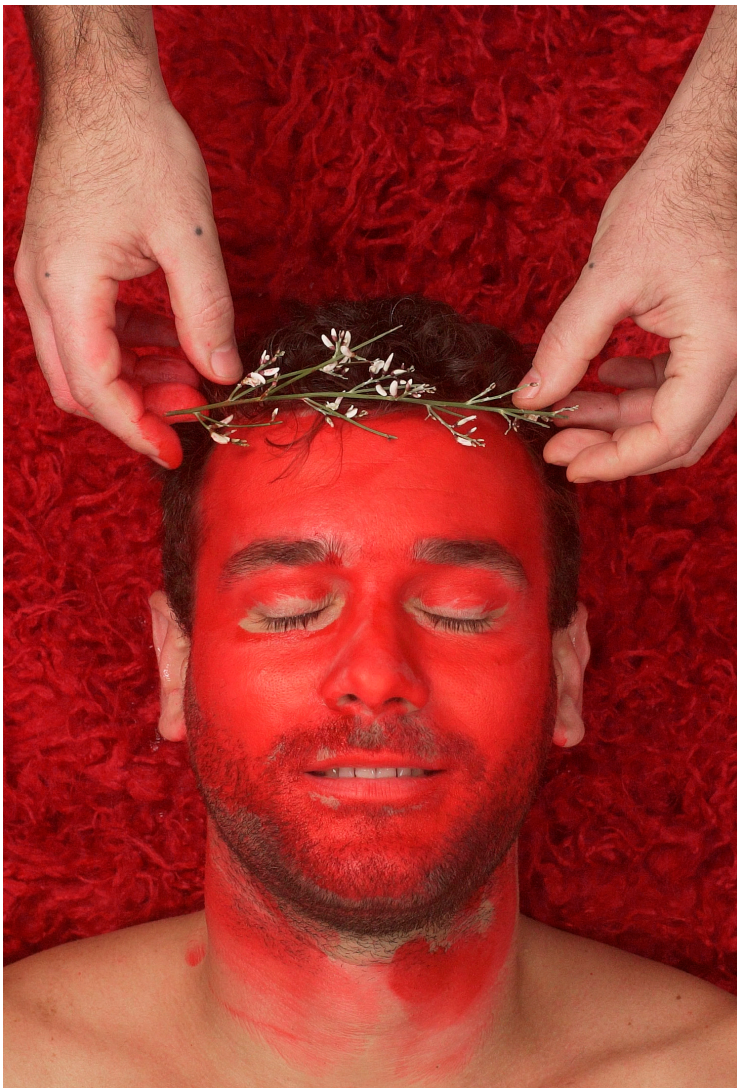
MAO Museo d'Arte Orientale

*Il Canto del Capro* is a brand new installation conceived by GianMarco Porru for t-space X MAO. The work encompasses a series of topics from the artist's research and expands a study of Mediterranean mythology that reflects on a religious syncretism spread across different geographical and cultural areas, some of which are represented within the Museum's collections.

*Il Canto del Capro* represents a three-dimensional visualization of a hypothetical, fantastic narrative embedded in the process of *interpretatio religiosa*. GianMarco Porru focuses on a suspended time prior to the accession of the monotheistic cult, and introduces a first-person narration of Water, concerned with rituals destined to propitiate the divinities in charge for storms.

Dionysus, known in Sardinia as Maimone, according to different versions of the myth is worshiped in the form of a child and underworld deity as Cronus and/or Pluvius – different names of the same god. In the various ancient rituals celebrated at the beginning of the agricultural year, the emphasis lies not so much on the orgiastic aspect of the Dionysian religion but rather on the pluvial one, whose propitiation is essential to obtain abundant rains. This occurs through the representation of the passion and death of a victim symbolizing the death and passion of the god himself.

GianMarco Porru intends Sardinia as a speculative territory to revisit the idea of the authentic and archaic, problematizing the mechanisms of reproduction and representation of national cultural heritage. The reinterpretation of material culture is envisioned as a path that crosses and questions aesthetic and iconographic stratifications – in archaeology and ethnography. It aims to reframe and reenact mythological and unpublished narratives in potential territories of origin, thus renegotiating the hegemonic narrative.



GianMarco Porru, *Il Canto del Capro*  
2022  
*site-specific installation*

carpet, curtain, UHD video installation 20'

A video produced by GianMarco Porru and t-space

Produced with the support of Multidisciplinary Residency Bassa Sabina TerraArte 2022 in implementation of the three-year agreement MIBACT Regione Lazio - art. 43 "Residenze" D.M. 27th July 2017, concerning arts Residencies for the period 2022-2024.

Courtesy of the artist and t-space

GianMarco Porru (Italy,1989) is a Milan-based visual artist. He works with different media including performance, video and photography. His works have been exhibited at several foundations, museums and festivals such as Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Guarene; MilanOltre, Milan; Museo MA\*GA, Gallarate; Museo Nivola, Orani; PAV, Turin; Museo del Novecento, Milan; Museo MAN, Nuoro; Teatro San Martin, Buenos Aires; PhotoVogue festival, Milan; Piccolo Teatro di Milano-Teatro d'Europa.

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## t-space x MAO

MAO recently inaugurated a new phase, #MAOTempoPresente. This marks the opening of the Museum to artistic and creative activities through a structured program of artistic and curatorial residencies. Performers, artists, curators and scholars will be invited to inhabit the collections and exhibition spaces, performing and “staging” the Museum. The brand-new project is based in the renovated t-space and is the result of a collaboration with the eponymous art space founded by Giulia Spreafico and Rui Wu in Milan in 2016.

[t-space.it/about](http://t-space.it/about)

The t-space in Milan was originally conceived as an independent art space capable of making artistic activity sustainable; over the years it has increasingly turned into a place for project and discussion promoting exchange between artists and the public. The t-space at MAO is conceived also as a venue for welcoming and sharing: visitors can take a break, drink tea, meet artists and performers, and join the events scheduled from October 2022 to June 2023.

[t-space.it/t-spacexmao](http://t-space.it/t-spacexmao)



## Un tè da t-space

A “t-space tea” is a series of videos in which artists are invited to have tea and present their work inside MAO. The conversations are available on the museum’s YouTube channel.



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## t-dispenser

2022 / by t-space

Site-specific installation

Hot water dispenser  
Gasbeton  
Pure tea bags  
Paper cups

Conceived as a hot water “fountain” where visitors can drink tea within the space, the installation changes as the exhibitions and installations evolve. An ever-moving sculpture in which the gasbeton bricks become a frame for the dispenser and a device available for the invited artists: support, seat, lectern, display and matter on which to act with signs and gestures. The installation relates to the *Buddha*<sup>10</sup> exhibition and is freely inspired by the Chinese Shíkū 石窟, complexes of caves and caverns carved into the rock containing statues of the Buddha.

## Huang Cha – Kekecha

A traditional Chinese specialty, yellow tea has a very limited production and is typical of Hunan province, where the yellowing of the leaves dates back to remote techniques and craftsmanship. The second area involved is the Guangdong mountains, where a more modern technique is used to produce the kekecha, a partial oxidation tea. During its production, the skilled tea master relies on instinct to modulate the heat and stop the yellowing and oxidation process at the right time.

Due to its stimulating effect and many pleasurable qualities, consumption of this tea has long remained a privilege of Buddhist monks. The quality offered is elongated leaf, multi-colored with bronze hues. In the cup, the taste is mild with a slight vegetable and exotic fruit note similar to papaya.

Claudia Carità  
—tea selector for The Tea Torino  
[thetea.it](http://thetea.it)

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