

PILLOWS LIKE PILLARS

GIANNA RUBINI, AGNESE SPOLVERINI, MARIA CHIARA ZIOSI

A CURA DI STEFANO VOLPATO

Barriera opens the eleventh edition of Mirror Project in collaboration with Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo. The project is aimed at the participants of the curatorial programme CAMPO, which are invited each year to develop a new exhibition.

Pillows like pillars presents the research of the artists Gianna Rubini, Agnese Spolverini and Maria Chiara Ziosi. The exhibition investigates the margins of a burning tearing between the domestic, private, internal and its public, productive, external counterpart. The occasion itself of the exhibition represents a moment of hybridization between these two dimensions. From this perspective, the works and interventions by the artists — through different strategies and methods — trigger the dialogue with the suggestion of a metamorphosis of the space hosting them, which the same title of the exhibition refers to. The columns of Barriera become pillows, its walls become sheets: the contours soften, collapse and expand, as for a new moulding.

Gianna Rubini takes over gestures and habits, questioning the connections between herself and some pervasive dynamics of the contemporaneity. The monologue *Ehi*, performed by the artist at the opening and available in the form of a recording, is accompanied by a specific scenography in the space. The dialogue that Rubini has developed for years with the digital assistant of her smartphone becomes an impossible stream of consciousness. Between the here and now of the listener and the elusive otherness of the speaker, the scenography works as a link, swaying between the two-dimensionality of the white wall and its breakthrough.

Agnese Spolverini sets up scenarios permeated by a hybrid and fluid daily imaginary. Intimacy, discomfort, desire and fragility are mixed, triggering empathic and imaginative possibilities. The conversation between

the work and the viewer is like the one involving two lovers. The installation *La Boum* is the center of an arrangement made of plastic fragments and visual notes, scattered throughout the space. The artist's voice sounds sensual and at the same time a bit awkward, merging the rest of the works in a dreamlike and precarious atmosphere, which seems to be on the verge of breaking up..

Maria Chiara Ziosi's practice develops a logic of denial or contradiction, entailing a tension that produces meaning. The mechanisms of recognition and aggregation, inertia and apathy are central in her work, often related to the process of putting together precarious and variable identities. The chairs in *Nickname Generator* are engraved with several nicknames generated by a free online software, combining the artist's name, the genre and a few adjectives; the prints on the blankets from the series *Oh hi* are based on suggestions from the doomer imaginary, presented as nocturnal thoughts in the exhibition space. To conclude the exhibition, Ziosi presents *Songs From a Rat Hole*, a series of audio tracks as a performative moment of an imaginary voice, which transforms the exhibited works into its scenographic objects.

The graphic design of the catalogue is by Mattia Pajè, with the collaboration of the artists in the exhibition; the latter constitutes an unconscious side of the exhibition, populated by nightmares and ghosts. The catalogue will be presented at the finissage.

The graphic design of Barriera is by Désirée Nakouzi De Monte.

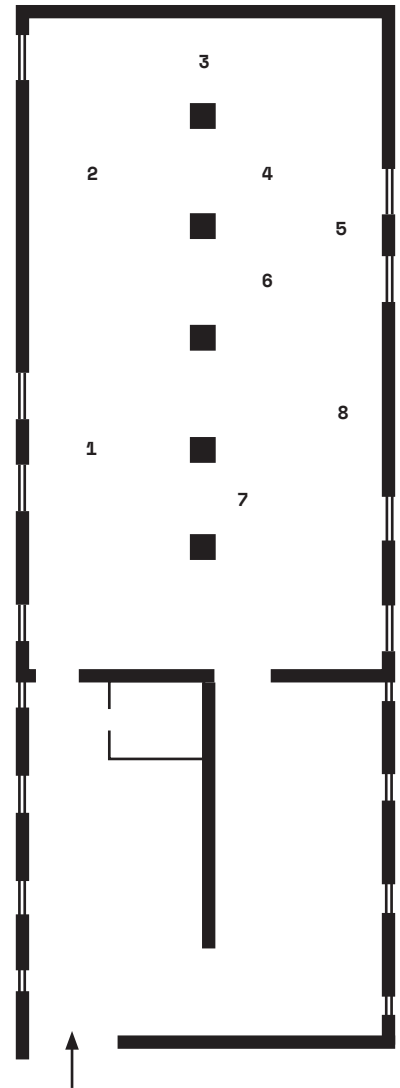
Agnese Spolverini (Viterbo, 1994) lives and works in Viterbo. She has graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Urbino.

Her works were featured in the collective show *Surprise* at the Pescheria Visual Arts Center, Pesaro (2019). In 2020 she participated in *Supercall*, curated by Supergiovane at Studio 4 × 4, Pietrasanta (LU). She took part in *Un discorso luminoso*, Luminaria III edition at Oriolo Romano (2021) and the *Una boccata d'arte* project promoted by the Fondazione Elpis and Galleria Continua.

Gianna Rubini (Vicenza, 1993) lives and works in Milan. She graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice and is the co-founder of the independent space Il Salotto; she works as a choreographer and performer at Teatro della Cenere.

Among her recent collaborations: *Santa Carne*, AB23, Vicenza (2020); *This is my home, mine too, mine too*, personal exhibition at the Villa Jugendstil, Basel, (2019); *Ho rubato un giardino*, collective show, Giardino Jacquard, Schio (2019).

Maria Chiara Ziosi (Cento, FE, 1995) lives and works between Bologna and Venice. She graduated from the IUAV University of Venice. She took part in the collective exhibition *Flexin* *Flexin try to exercise* in Venice (2019) and in the workshop *Bodymind Operating System* with ∞OS at V-A-C Foundation (2019). She has collaborated on the project *Che fare? / What is to be done?* by RAM radioartemobile (2020) and was selected for the Affioramenti nomination at the Asolo Art Film Festival (2020).



Maria Chiara Ziosi

- 1 *Oh hi*, 2020; fleece blankets, digital prints; 4 pieces, 145 × 106 cm (each)
- 2 *Nickname generator*, 2019; carved desk chairs; 10 pieces, 52 × 50 × 87 cm (each)

Gianna Rubini

- 3 *Ehi*, 2021; live and recorded soliloquy, colored tape set design, 15 minutes, variable dimensions

Agnese Spolverini

- 4 *Toothpaste Chronicles #3*, 2021; toothbrush, toothpaste, led light, variable dimensions
- 5 *Tengo un peso en el alma que non me deja respirar*, 2019; balloon, chewing gum, led light, 40 × 49 × 7 cm
- 6 *La Boum*, 2021; pillow, spotlight, mp3 audio, headphones, 6'20 minutes, variable dimensions
- 7 *Friends (dal #1 al #10)*, 2020; synthetic paste DAS, latex, led light, 10 pieces, variable dimensions
- 8 *Untitled (tears)*, 2020; video on laptop, 3'30 minutes, variable dimensions

Associazione Barriera is a space for contemporary art, founded in 2007 by a group of collectors in the neighborhood Barriera di Milano of Turin.

Barriera is curated by Sergey Kantsedal.
Assistant curator: Yuliya Say.

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