Noel Emilia Gazzano Visionary art and anthropology for social change

www.noelgazzano.com



Sprouted hemp seeds and wild flowers "The Unbearable Contradiction", performance.

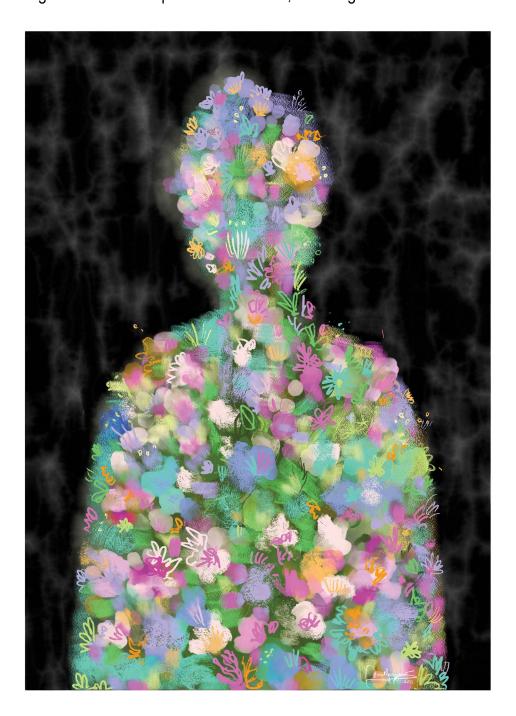


Delivering a performance-based corporate leadership program for ENEL multinational energy corporation in Rome (2021)

I'm an American and Italian artist and author with a PhD in anthropology and ten years university teaching experience. I develop interdisciplinary projects that combine anthropological research with the visionary power of art, a deep ethical stance and collective engagement, with the goal of encouraging sociocultural change among communities and corporations in regards to current issues such as human rights violations, gender-based violence and environmental protection. I employ multiple languages (visual arts, performance, speaking, text, comics) to engage diverse audiences and cause action. I celebrate the poetic, fragile dimensions of life and I'm passionate about deep questions (what makes us human? What's the origin of art?). I'm nurtured and motivated by walking meditation in nature.

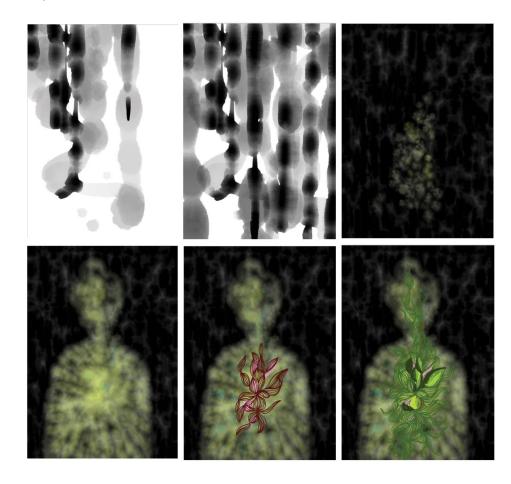
I have two decades experience developing art, editorial and education programs for universities, corporations and international institutions. My academic and artistic production is featured in international journals, exhibitions, radio and tv shows. I received prizes and commissions from humanitarian, scientific and cultural institutions. Since 2007 I have been regularly exhibiting my work and participating in artist residencies. I'm currently working on corporate culture change towards gender equality and environmental protection by developing art and anthropology based leadership and staff training programs (i.e. recently for energy multinational ENEL). I'm author and illustrator for Classic Boat Magazine and national Italian newspaper La Stampa, where I publish two illustrated anthropology columns and my satyrical comic-strip Crisinera.

Please find a broader selection of works at



Keynote speaker at a conference on responsibility (AMKA, Rome, May 27th, 2023) I proposed a novel etymology of the word: not the judgemental interpretation that places blame, but rather the hopeful "response-ability" – the acknowledgement of our shared, human capability to react to adverse circumstances. By allowing our response-ability to emerge in the form of blossoming creativity and sensitivity, we can address the darkness of the many contemporary crises that affect us individually and collectively.

My speech was accompanied by this animation, which is the visualisation of the internal process I described.





PAESI TUOI (2022-23)
Radical anthropology and art for social change
Weekly illustrated anthropology column. National Italian newspaper "La Stampa"

Weekly illustrated ethnographic research to give voice to people living in depopulated villages in Piedmont, Italy, with a focus on environmental issues, drought, economic depression, social change, possibilities for future policies.



## DONNE E LAVORO. PER UNA CULTURA DEL CAMBIAMENTO (2021-22)

Weekly illustrated anthropology column. National Italian newspaper "La Stampa".



Scientific research and artistic creativity combined to trigger socio-cultural transformation through words and images: a year-long anthropological investigation of the obsolete cultural values that obstacle to women's personal and professional realisation, through 50 illustrated interviews with female leaders, developed for national Italian newspaper "La Stampa". "Donne e lavoro. Per una cultura del cambiamento" ("Women & work. For a culture of change") celebrates women's capability of self-realization despite adverse circumstances - as poetically evoked by the final exhibition title, "Blossoming in winter" (Palazzo Mazzetti, Asti IT, 2022-23).

Exhibition sponsored by Soroptimist International AT; Comitato Pari Opportunità, Ordine Avvocati ATi; Confartigianato, Ass. Artigiani Provincia di Asti; Gruppo Donna Impresa – Confartigianato Asti; PS Studio Progettazione Sostenibile. View at https://www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=32

### **ENEL PEOPLE & ORGANIZATION GROUP (2021)**

Art-based leadership training program and globally distributed publication



Development of artwork for Enel Magazine n.33. Global distribution, Nov 2021

Ideation and development of art-based training program for HR leaders (Villa Lazzaroni, Rome, IT, April 2021).

Implementation of the current corporate culture change through the development and delivery of a leadership training program based on visual arts and performance.

Development of comics for internal use on the transformations of leadership and corporate culture (using my character "Crisinera").

Creation of illustrations that synthesise chore corporate values, published as visual language for Enel's international Magazine (It, Eng, Es) with global distribution.



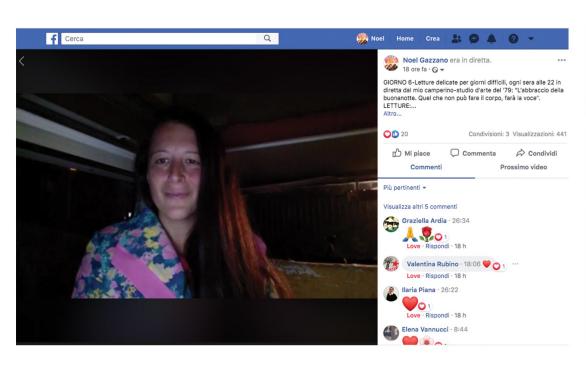




## L'ABBRACCIO DELLA BUONANOTTE (2020) What the body can't do, my voice will Durational performance. 33 days, 10 March-10 April 2020

On March 9th 2020 at 9 PM, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced lockdown on tv. From that day on, alone in our homes, longing for physical closeness, every night we fearfully awaited his crushing speeches. So every evening at 10, right after the speech, I hugged Italians with my voice: I performed an online, live reading of powerful texts that nourished, suggested critical tools and allowed sleep. Sitting in candlelight in my mobile atelier (a 1978 camper), wearing a vintage nightgown, I embodied a dreamy atmosphere to heal and give hope. People of all ages participated suggesting readings & commenting. In collaboration with publishers Animamundi and Kurumuny.

Documentation www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=688





## ARIANNA RELOADED (2019)



Performance, installation, participatory art project Giornata del Contemporaneo 2019 Girolamo Rossi Museum, Forte del Belvedere, Ventimiglia (IT)

480 meters of red wool, antique nightgown, monologues written by the artist

I transformed the ancient myth of Ariadne: the thread leads people into the depths of the cave – metaphor of the human psyche.

The intricate installation delicately obligates participants to experience an attitude of gentle awareness – so rare in contemporary life – and to bring it to the final part of the installation, where I perform a series of monologues I wrote.

Wearing an antique nightgown, I evoke contemporary gender issues by reimagining ancient mythological female figures: Daphne, Persephone, Penelope.









Palermo Summer School of Contemporary Art – Caffè Internazionale Residency

Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2V1xRwPVu8

Documentation www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=688



A sprouted lemon seed found in my lunch sandwitch made by a street food vendor in Palermo's roughest neighbourhood stirs a public debate on the clash between the poetic and the cynical dimensions of life, as manifested in the vendor's child, torn between different understandings of identity, masculinity, tradition.

I cultivated the sprouted seed and gave it the boy's name.

SCREENINGS 2019 Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa, Palermo Summer School of Contemporary Art, Curated by Stefania Galegati Shines, Davide Ricco, Daria Filardo. With Helen Cammock, Driant Zeneli.











# CRISINERA Satyrical comic strip (2018-ongoing)

"Crisinera" (deep, dark crisis in Italian) embodies the many crises we face today, from environmental issues to political and social dilemmas. Stemming from an anthropological gaze on the world, it has been published daily or weekly by Italian national newspaper La Stampa since 2020.

Awarded at Lucca Comics 2018 as Italian excellence (La Stampa Comics Award, Bao Publishing), presented at international journalism conference Conversazioni sul Futuro (Lecce), chosen in 2021 as graphic image for globally distributed Enel Magazine.













- A coffee.

-What if you get tachicardia?

-With milk.

-Shouldn't you be vegan?

-With brown sugar.

-What about blood.sugar?

-And a cream pastry.

-You're looking for trouble aren"t you?!
-A decaf and a slap in the face.

-Now that's better!

# NARDO' VOLA – NARDO' FLIES (2018) Video, performance, public installation



Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLibdZP8dYo Documentation https://www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=688

When manifested, dreams can cause change.

In residence at Project Space Salento (Nardò, IT, 10 April-25 May 2018) I carried out an ethnographic investigation on structural inequalities. I then imagined and realized a "cure": I asked locals to make a wish and video-recorded their answers. I developed a public installation, a relational artwork and a video that stirred a lively debate in town.

EXHIBITIONS E Sulla Pelle, Asfodeli, 2018 Project Space Salento, Nardò (IT).



## **EVERYONE'S DRESS (2018)**

Relational art project: garments, graffiti, video Artist in residence, Farm Culture Park, Favara

#### Documentation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgaxo7ahsBc&t=1s https://www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=688

Invited by FARM Culture Park's founders to address racism and unenmployment, I developed Everyone's Dress, a relational-art project for the creation of a garment – wearable by people of any age, size and sex – that rejects the notion of race thanks to its universal nature. I worked with a group of people that moved to Sicily from various African nations, in collaboration with Korai-Territorio Sviluppo e Cultura Soc. Coop. and under the auspices of The Honorary Consulate of Ghana in Sicily.

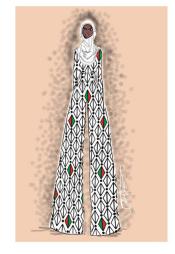
SCREENINGS AND EXHIBITIONS 2018 FARM Cultural Park, Favara (IT), 7th Anniversary event.











A SONG FOR TIRANA (2018)
Mural, approx 20x3 meters
Upon invitation of the Mayor's Office, Tirana Mural Festival

Location Gijmnasi Petro Nini Luarasi, Rruga Sami Frashëri, Tirana 1000 (AL) Video www.instagram.com/p/BjfTCndFx2J/



Above: the painting process.

Documentation www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=1386



This work is a hymn to creative freedom.

It ideally connects the Italian and Albanian adriatic shores while celebrating Tirana's use of art as a means of post-dictatorship rebirth.

A 25-meter mermaid (symbol of human's capanility of diving in the depths of our psyche) lies on her back singing the albanian translation of a poem I wrote for my work "Nardò Vola" (2018): "I wish to always have these eyes in order to see and sing beauty".

With Làzaro Saavedra Curated by Giacomo Zaza









Invited to work in an ancient grotto, I revived the feminine origin of art as performed by prehistoric women by blowing red clay on cave walls, leaving the marks of their hads - and thus of their identity and presence.

I enhanced the feminine aspect by placing a lock of my hair in the heart of the work, along with a drop of blod that Làzaro Saavedra and I drew from our fingers, in a contemporary version of the blood-tie ritual.

CATALOGUE "lo sono la mia grotta". Contaminazioni 02. Grenzi Editore. EXHIBITIONS 2018 Daunia Land Art. Curated by Giacomo Zaza. In "Nascita di un artista. Joseph Beuys a Foggia e sul Gargano", curated by Stephan Nienhaus, Guido Pensato and Gaetano Cristino. Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Palazzo Dogana, Foggia (IT).

# L'INSOPPORTABILE CONTRADDIZIONE - THE UNBEARABLE CONTRADICTION (2016) Performance (durational, 4 days), video



100 km on foot pushing a hospital gurney to make evident "The Unbearable Contradiction" between natural beauty and hidden health risks caused by human actions. With the auspices of ISDE-International Society of Doctors for Environment.

A challenging durational performance that celebrates beauty and promotes action: throughout the journey, I sprouted phytopurifying hemp seeds on the gurney and planted them upon arrival to share a sign of hope and state that land-cleaning is cancer prevention. Wearing a 1960s nightgown, I embodied the courage and strength that stem from kindness and vulnerability.

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVUztv0ZBTI&t=1s

Documentation

https://www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=41



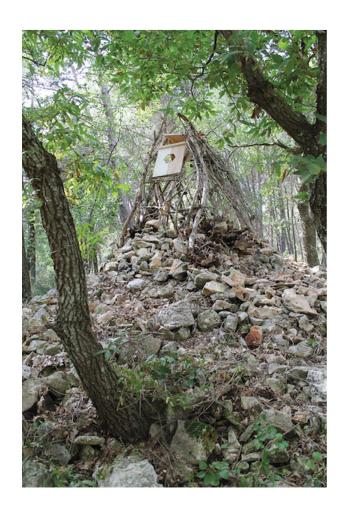






SCREENINGS AND EXHIBITIONS 2017 MACRO-Museo Arte Contemporanea Roma (Rome, IT); FARM Culture Park (Favara, IT); Richmond College London, Florence (IT) Campus. 2016 Castello di Acaya (Lecce, IT); La Notte della Cultura e delle Arti (curated by Gigi Rigliaco, Art and Ars Gallery, Galatina, IT); Studio Bong (Firenze, IT) CREDITS Photography: Federica Antonelli, Giuseppe Lanotte; video and press office: Rossella Granata; scenography: Dario Rizzello; logistics: Betty Locane PRESS: La Repubblica, La Stampa, Il Corriere della Sera, Huffington Post, Vice, etc.

TELEVISION FEATURES: Telenorba, RAI 3 National Italian Television, Lecce Cronaca, TV Med RADIO: Canaparliamone, Telenorba



# TERRA MIA, IO SONO TUA Utopian Experiment in Performative land Art (2016)

Stones, wood, plants approx. 800x800x300cm Foresta di Mesola, Bari (IT) with Grace Zanotto Apulia Land Art Residency, curated by M. Nardi

Art can contribute to solving the environmental crisis. This work is a visionary phytodepuration project: art functions as a water filtering system with natural materials made and phytodepurative plants. Rain percolates in the work, it is cleaned by the plants and then feeds the earth safely. The structure was created by revisiting the Ligurian drywall technique, combined with raw dirt construction and wood sculpture. Spectators can enter the work, thus experiencing an intimate contact with Earth, as if plants were growing on their skin, as seen in the concept drawing.



Documentation www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=1506

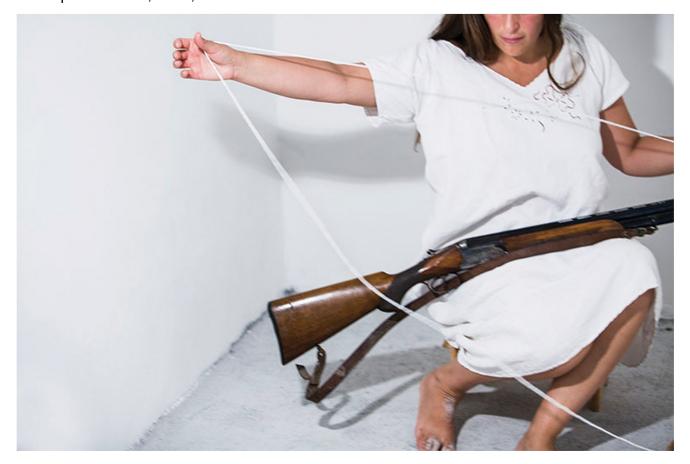








# THE END OF AN ERA (2015) Video-performance, 3'52", 133'



We all have a rifle to deal with. But how?

A performance on overcoming all forms of violence

Video
https://vimeo.com/147857719
Uncut
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWTuBEAdYpY
Documentation
https://www.noelgazzano.com/?page\_id=41









PRIZES AND COMPETITIONS 2018 Finalist, Canova Art Prize, NYC (USA) 2016 Video Arts Festival, Rethymno, Crete (GR); 2015 First selection, Premio Arte Laguna, Venice (IT). SCREENINGS AND EXHIBITIONS 2018 AI Femminile. Video Arte: Sensibilità e Lavoro di Sole Artiste, curated by Leonardo Moretti, Spazio Ex Leopoldine, Florence (IT); Canova Art Prize, Pop Up Space Broadway (NYC, USA) 2017 FARM Culture Park, Favara (IT) 2016 Spazio Bong, Florence (IT); Palazzo Vettori, Kent University, Florence (IT); Richmond College London, Florence (IT) Campus; REThink Video Arts Festival, Rethymno, Crete (GR)

## I have worked with





# LA STAMPA





























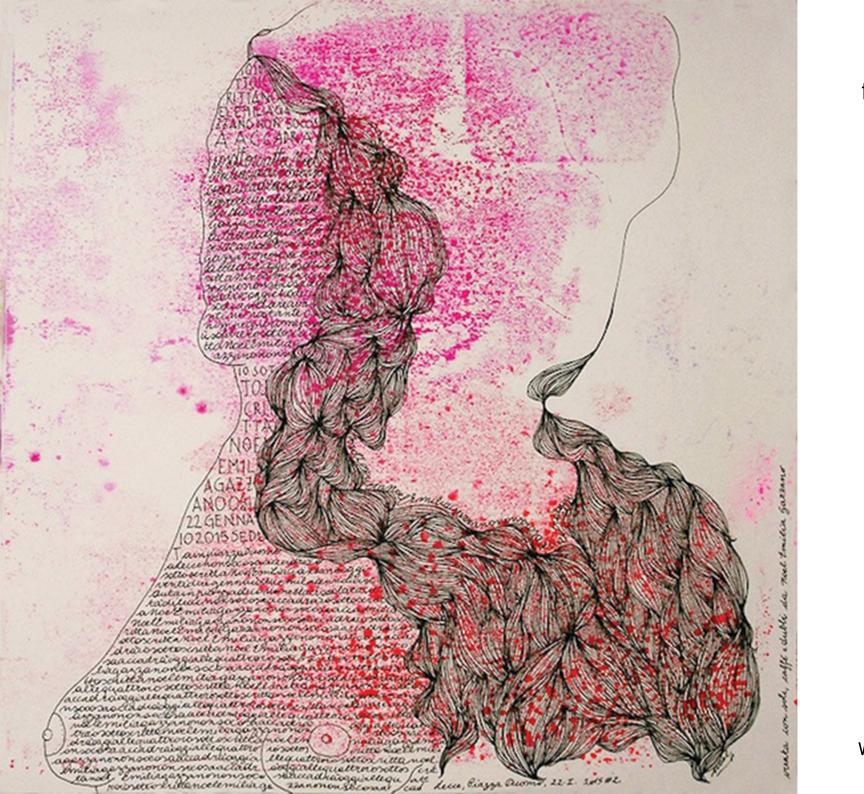












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