

RASOTERRA

with Balam Bartolomé (Mexico), Steffi Stouri (Greece), Benedetta Fioravanti (Italy), Giuseppe Di Liberto (Italy), Xenia Benivolski (Canada)
curated by Nicola Guastamacchia and Nicola Nitido

This year, for the first time, In-ruins takes place in Puglia. Following previous editions in Calabria and Basilicata, the project expands to the city of Canosa di Puglia, where archaeology is embedded in the urban fabric - scattered across hypogea, quarries, and domestic spaces. The 2025 residency involves five artists from different geographical and cultural contexts - Balam Bartolomé (Mexico), Steffi Stouri (Greece), Benedetta Fioravanti (Italy), Giuseppe Di Liberto (Italy), and Xenia Benivolski (Canada) - invited to develop site-specific projects in dialogue with the local territory and its historical stratifications.

The final programme, titled Rasoterra, unfolds through a series of interventions and dispersed actions across archaeological and urban sites in Canosa di Puglia, scheduled for Friday 10 and Saturday 11 October 2025. The two days of public presentations will engage multiple locations - including the Necropolis of Pietra Caduta, the Lagrasta Hypogea, the Cinema Strippoli, and the Domus of Montescupolo - inviting the public to rediscover the city's layered heritage. *Rasoterra* is curated by Nicola Guastamacchia and Nicola Nitido, as part of the In-ruins 2025 residency, hosted by the Soprintendenza BAT-Foggia and the Municipality of Canosa di Puglia, in collaboration with Fondazione Elpis, under the patronage of FAC Canusium and Italia Patria della Bellezza, and in academic synergy with UCL, AHA Network, and SSBA Uniba-Unifg.

We would like to thank the local partners who made this project possible: the "Giuseppe Verdi" Band of Canosa, the MelodicaMente Cultural Association, Cinema Strippoli, Fonderia Magnifico, Fondazione Rossi, the Casa 28 restaurant, the Pro Loco of Canosa, and Cave Leone.

We also extend our gratitude to all those who took part in our journey: Superintendent Anita Guarnieri, Mayor Vito Malcangio and Councillor Cristina Saccinto, FAC President Sergio Fontana, Drs. Annalinda Iacoviello and Viviana Baldassarre, guide Matteo Fraccareta, journalist Bartolo Carbone, Maestro Giuseppe Lentini, Maestri Monica Paciolla and Salvatore Sciotti, composer Felix Unseld, photographer Christian Mantuano, singer Maria Sinesi, pianist Vincenzo Dell'Uovo, sound artist Jeph Vanger, Filli Rossi, Renato Tango, Elia Marro, Nunzio, Maria and Sabino Leone, Pierluigi Di Biase, Donato Loforese, and Chiara and Felisia Di Cillo.

Media partner: Salgemma / Design: Studio Co-co

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The territory of Canosa di Puglia was once the floor of an ancient sea. In a millennia-long exercise of apnea, one can imagine what was once submerged, now transfigured into the vaults of catacombs and hypogea - into the very matter of walls, ceilings, and pavements. In Canosa this passage is not allegory but material condition: what was once seabed is now rocky crust; what was underground became the foundation of dwellings; and what seems invisible keeps surfacing among courtyards, alleyways, and domestic facades.

Rasoterra tells of the threshold where time flattens and eternity contracts into an instant: the moment of descent and ascent, in a continuous becoming of hills, bodies, and ruins. The surface of Canosa is an unstable, slanting plane that slips from rooftop terraces down into the darkness of quarries and catacombs, where the hum of insects and mosquitoes seems to guard the echoes of ancient rites and prayers. Within this dissonant urban fabric - wedged between excavation sites and construction yards - the resident artists moved for over a month, turning their gazes into instruments of excavation.

Thus, the town band will play for the first time inside the Domus of Montescupolo; a young singer, like a wailer, will intone neo-melodic songs in the main square; the 1948 Strippoli Cinema will come alive again for one evening; the Necropolis of Pietra Caduta will host experiments in sound; while mystical sculptures will breathe life back into the famed Lagrasta Hypogea.

During our stay, we moved through Canosa like who pedals grazing the ground, carving subtle imprints into its landscape. This restitution to the city seeks to tell of these traces left behind - gestures *rasoterra*, and little more than a hundred meters above the sea.

In-ruins

CONTEMPORARY ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

RESIDENZA 2025 / VI EDIZIONE: PRESENTAZIONE DEI PROGETTI ALLA CITTADINANZA
CANOSA DI PUGLIA: VENERDÌ 10 – SABATO 11 OTTOBRE 2025

PROGRAM – Day 1

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER – from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Stop 1

Steffi Stouri (Greece) / Xenia Benivolski (Canada)

Para-city

- Location: **Necropolis of Pietra Caduta** (Pietra Caduta Park)
- Time: meeting 5:30 PM / departure 6:00 PM
- Duration: 60 minutes

Stop 2

Giuseppe Di Liberto (Sicily)

Until the fire bursts from my chest

until the smoke is scattered by the wind.

→ Act 1

- Location: **Cassarmonica, Piazza Vittorio Veneto**
- Time: meeting 7 PM / start 7:30 PM
- Duration: 20 minutes

(Followed by a short walk to...)

→ Act 2

- Location: **Roman Domus of Montescupolo** (Via Guglielmo Marconi, 17)
- Time: 8:00 PM
- Duration: 30 minutes

Stop 3

Aperitivo curated by In-ruins

- Time: 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM
- Location: **Infinite Bontà da Anna** (Marcato Piazza Pasquale Galluppi, Box 8)

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PROGRAM – Day 2

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER – from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM

Stop 1

Benedetta Fioravanti (Marche)

L'azzeruolo

- Location: **Cinema Strippoli** (Via John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 56, 76012)
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Duration: 40 minutes

Stop 2

Balam Bartolomè (Mexico)

Espejos humeantes en floración / flotación

- Location: **Lagrasta Hypogea** (Via Generale Luigi Cadorna)
- Time: 7:30 PM
- Duration: 40 minutes

Stop 3

Aperitivo curated by In-ruins

- Time: 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM
- Location: **Garden of the Lagrasta Hypogea**