



Institut Culturel Italien

# Albumarte

The Italian Institute of Culture in Algiers and *AlbumArte* present

## Anteprima#5 | *The Act of Seeing*

Curated by Maria Rosa Sossai | AlbumArte Rome

April 12th 2015 | Italian Institute of Culture in Algiers  
13th to 14th April 2015 | École supérieure des Beaux-Arts d'Alger

*The Act of Seeing* (fifth edition of *Anteprima*, an international project by *AlbumArte*) offers the opportunity to examine various aspects of reality by means of the poetic vision of two Italian artists, **Raffaella Mariniello** (Naples, 1965) and **Elena Bellantoni** (Vibo Valentia, 1975), both of whom have been engaged for many years in the production of videos and photography in Italy and abroad.

**During a meeting open to the public** at the Italian Institute of Culture in Algiers, in the presence of the curator and the artists some of their videos will be shown, including their two latest creations: *Still in life* by Raffaella Mariniello (2014) and *Halla Yella* by Elena Bellantoni (2014). In the second workshop and research phase, the two artists will each conduct a workshop with two groups of students of the **École supérieure des Beaux-Arts d'Alger**. From this exchange of experiences a relationship and a dialogue with the students will be established, in order to elaborate a shared creative experience, discover their shared history.

*The act of seeing has always been considered a process of amplification of one's perceptual capacities. In the artists videos the act of seeing often becomes a critical means for reading and interpreting reality in many different areas: educational, social, scenic, sentimental and relational, so to be able to reflect and subsequently act.*

(Maria Rosa Sossai).

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### Biographies

**Raffaella Mariniello** (born in Naples, 1965) lives and works in Naples. The comparison and reflection on social and cultural issues in her work show that she is particularly sensitive to the relationship between man, the objects of his daily life and the places where he lives. The artist has participated in numerous exhibitions in Italy and abroad and she has had several solo exhibitions including: the 12th Art Quadrennial of Rome (1996), the 8th Biennial of Photography in Turin (1999), the 11th Biennale of Architecture in Venice (2006), the *Ffotogallery* of Cardiff, Wales, UK (2006), the Festival of Photography of Rome (2002, 2005, 2008), the MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai (2006, 2010), *Paris Photo* (2007), the Festival of Photography of Toronto – Contact – (2008), the MAXXI Museum, Rome (2010), the MADRE Museum, Naples (2011), the Museum of Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (2011) *Casa della fotografia*, Villa Pignatelli, Naples (2012).

**Elena Bellantoni** (born in Vibo Valentia, 1975) lives and works in Berlin and Italy. After graduating in Contemporary Art at the *La Sapienza* University of Rome, she studied in Paris and London and received an MA in Visual Art at the WCA - University of the Arts London in 2007. She then started to explore the sector of dance-

theater and the performing arts, participating in workshops and advanced training courses in Italy and abroad. In 2007 she set up *Platform Translation Group* and in 2008 she co-founded the non-profit space for art projects *91mQ* in Berlin. Her solo exhibitions include: *Hala Yella at the end of the world*, at *Set Up Plus Art Fair Bologna / Alviani Art Space* Pescara, and *Passo a Due*, at *Careof DOCVA*, Milan (2015); *Tempo Imperfetto* at the *Fondazione Filiberto Menna* and the *Archaeological Museum*, Salerno (2014); *My name is... elena bellantoni* a videoart project, Milan (2013) *Looking for E.B.* at the *Galleria Muratcentoventidue*, Bari and *Hala Yella* presentation, at *Caja Negra Artes Visuales*, Santiago de Chile (2012), *Is it Real?* at the *91mQ* art project space, Berlin (2008); *Transparentz* at the *Weisser Elephant Galerie*, Berlin (2007) Her group exhibitions in 2014 included: *Open doors at the Foreign Ministry – an exhibition of new acquisitions, (Farnesina porte aperte mostra artisti MAE nuove acquisizioni)* at the Foreign Ministry of Rome; *Talent Prize 2014* an exhibition of the finalists at the *Acquario Romano*, Rome; *White Canvas* at the University of Oradea, Romania; *Video Art Year Book* at the University of Visual Arts of Bologna; *African Fabbers* at the Marrakech Biennale, L'Blassa, Marrakech, Morocco; *Exodus* at the *Centro Cultural Recoleta*, Buenos Aires, Argentina; *Spaces of perception between intangible and tangible (Spazi di percezione tra intangibile e tangibile)* at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome.

**Maria Rosa Sossai** lives in Rome and is a researcher in the field of artistic practices and educational policies. In 2012 she founded *ALA - the Free Academy of the Arts*, [www.alagroup.org](http://www.alagroup.org), an independent platform for education and contemporary art. Her recent projects include co-curating the exhibition of Italian artists *We Have Never Been Modern*. promoted by the Italian Cultural Institute in Seoul, at the *SongEun Art Space* centre for contemporary art, in addition to organising a series of workshops and exhibitions of Italian and international artists at the contemporary art collection of the *FAI* at Villa Panza in Varese. Since December 2013 she has been the artistic director of *AlbumArte*, a non-profit cultural association of Rome with which she has collaborated since 2011. She has curated various exhibitions for the *Academia de España* in Rome, the Italian Cultural Institute in Istanbul, and the Tel Aviv Museum. Together with Laura Cherubini she curated the travelling exhibition of Carla Accardi in Toruń, Budapest, Thessaloniki and Athens. She writes for various contemporary art magazines such as *Flash Art*, *Art and Criticism*, *Artribune* and *Shifter*, and in 2002 she published *Arte video, storie e culture del video d'artista in Italia* (Art video, stories and cultures of video art in Italy), with the publisher *Silvana Editoriale* of Milan, which was followed in 2009 by *Film d'artista, percorsi e confronti tra arte e cinema* (Films by artists, directions and comparisons between art and cinema).

**AlbumArte** is a non-profit cultural organization which is committed to supporting and promoting contemporary art in Italy and abroad. It has organized collaborations with a number of public institutions such as the *GNAM - National Gallery of Modern Art* (Rome), the *MAXXI National Museum of 21st Century Arts* (Rome), the Embassy of the Netherlands in Italy (Rome), the Italian Embassy in Turkey, the French Institute of Culture in Italy, the Italian Institutes of Culture in Algiers, Istanbul and Prague, the Office of Cultural Affairs of the City of Paris, the *Cité Internationale des Arts* of Paris, the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the Department of Culture of *Roma Capitale*. The most recent projects of *AlbumArte* include: Chiara Mu *From Here*, curated by Maria Rosa Sossai (AlbumArte February 18th - April 1st 2015); Christine Rebet *Meltingsun* a solo show, curated by Maria Rosa Sossai and Francesco Urbano Ragazzi (AlbumArte, October 7th – 13th December 2014); *Anteprima #4 | Gianni Politi giovane pittore romano* curated by Paola Ugolini (an artist-in-residence project and solo exhibition at the Italian Cultural Institute in Prague, August 20th - September 30th 2014); *Anteprima #3 | Flavio Favelli - Grape Juice*, curated by Vittorio Urbani, (a solo exhibition in Istanbul at the *Galata Rum Okulu* school and a residency of the artist at *Palazzo Venezia* the residence of the Italian ambassador in Istanbul April 20th – 14th June 2014); *Duplex*, (Paris/Rome February - December 2014).

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### **For further information**

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