

The Circular Ruins

I am looking for the face I had before the world was created

August 4, 2018

Site specific event for the #30YearsFortezza

Geothermal ENEL Plant

56048 Larderello (Pisa) - Italy

Hours: 17 pm

From Earth's bowels a place arises, where human spaces of men and spaces of the world can be redefined, inside a circumference which circumscribes the human's own sacred space.



“He wanted to dream a man; he wanted to dream him with minute integrity and insert him into reality. This magic project had exhausted the entire expanse of his mind; if someone had asked him his name or to relate some event of his former life, he would not have been able to give an answer. The stranger dreamed that he was in the centre of a circular amphitheatre which was more or less the burned temple”. After the storm, the 2015-2016 Compagnia della Fortezza’s performance on Shakespeare work ended with a scene of desertion: the Child and Him turned their back to what was remaining of a Shakespearian’s fresco, an unbearable one, without any hope and they left the scene to look for another earth, another possibility. “As if the world should begin right now” the spirits suggested. The Child and Him arrives now insider Ruins J.L. Borges and in a “Liquid eye of the earth, wide open to the boundaries of knowledge, where everything that is solid is dissolved in the double-faced mirror”
Armando Punzo

THE PROJECT

The Circular Ruins is a huge event to celebrate the 30 years of Compagnia della Fortezza which is not just a performance but a great work of art for the community. It will remain in the collective memory, becoming a symbol of this place.

The place has been chosen because of the strong symbolic bond the company has with one of the most interesting Italian sites of Industrial Archaeology. The space is a place of transformation and creation of positive energy and it becomes a metaphor of an artistic and cultural unprecedented experience.

The cooling tower of the Geothermal plant will be the stage for the performance and the magnificent scenography, designed as a concrete tier of an ancient circular temple, will remain as a permanent installation, transforming the site in an unique open theatre.



This is a research on human kind, possibilities not yet thought, not yet tangible but the object of a common hope, though. Through Jorge Luis Borges' work, Compagnia della Fortezza tries to find a form for this invisible desire of a theatre which doesn't reproduce reality and its mechanisms. The liquid Borgesian labyrinths of words, places and figures seem to open new clefts that generate new visions asking to be nurtured and shared.

It's a work of art that deals with the very own "making" of the Company, a thirty-years long artistic process in which the need of opening new spaces becomes radical, open fields to rewrite what we are, to deconstruct the image of reality and to rebuild it into new unexpected forms which theatre can concretize.

This practice needs diffusion, multiplication, to imagine a common possible, concrete utopian project. A ritual place is created, to celebrate a rite whose object is not completely distant from us but it opens a door on another dimension, the one that doesn't find a space within everyday life, the place of desire, of a possible transformation, escaping the dynamic of reality. "He knew that this temple was the place required by his invincible purpose; he knew that, downstream, the incessant trees had not managed to choke the ruins of another propitious temple, whose gods were also burned and dead." In THE CIRCULAR RUINS, a tales from the collection "Ficciones", a man, a stranger, lands on the sacred mug of a soil where the remains of temples devoured by ancient fires still resist. Like an empty space, in the middle of a reality of an omission, a lack which offers the slightest visible world needed to transform it.

A sacred place is created, to celebrate a rite, where spectators can celebrate their own dream of a new man, leaving behind everyday life to confront the vision of their intimate dream and future.

Introduced in the “circular ruins”, spectators are embraced by an expanse of water, like a lake mirroring a world inside out, leaving a door open to the sky, from an underground world.

Observing the surface of the lake we release our dreams, reflections, imagination and illusions. Our “circular ruins”, stone temples that give life to another time (the time of creation, the time of theatre), are like a privileged eye on the world. From Earth’s bowels a place arises, where human spaces of men and spaces of the world can be redefined, inside a circumference, which circumscribes the human’s own sacred space.



A big clear eye which absorbs all the light and transforms it in a world apart.

The work of art is design like a site specific event which will take shape in the area of the Geothermal Plant ENEL Nuova in Larderello, a little town in the middle of Tuscany’s Devil’s Valley, a geologically active area, famous for its geothermal productivity and known since Dante’s times for its volcanic nature and phenomenal hot springs.

Here, a cooling tower has been given a new use: the upper part has been demolished and the basement has been rebuilt to create a huge arena characterized by a special acoustics (the environment is delimited by the lower walls of the cooling tower) and by an evocative situation, due to the combination of magnificent Industrial Archaeology’s elements and a modern conception of a contemporary art work.

The place will be flooded by water to create a large, circular lake; the spectators will enter the space, walking on a circular walkway to have access to the concrete tiers. They will have the feeling of being suspended above the water mirror.

Images, lights, performative actions,

words, sounds, music and percussion live, underlined by the extraordinary echo of the place, will resonate in the hearts and minds of the people participating this rite. They will transform the performance in an astonishing work of art, enjoyed by the audience in a totally different way, because the spectators will be transformed in a work of art themselves.

Before and after the setting of the performance Armando Punzo will guide a workshop with all the people that want to participate, to the final show.



SITE SPECIFIC event by Compagnia della Fortezza for the cooling tower of Geothermal ENEL Plant Larderello

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