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Pressrelease

Fostering the Garden

Aesthetics, cultivation and experimentation, models in contemporary planning.

The third Janus Summer Symposium at the LeWitt Foundation in Praiano

Promoted and curated by Nicola Setari with Giovanna Caputo and Francesca di Nardo

May 30th-June 2nd 2008

Fostering the Garden gathers a group of international specialists comprised of experts in the fields of architecture, landscape and agronomy, together with philosophers, curators, artists and writers. Participants come from different European countries—Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Holland—and from the United States.

The broad theme of the garden is dealt with during the symposium in terms of the cultivated garden, the aesthetic garden and the experimental garden, corresponding to the three different ways in which humanity relates to the natural environment. Cultivation has always guaranteed survival. Aesthetical contemplation involves simultaneously the pursuit of meaning through self-interrogation and the enjoyment of beauty. Experimentation derives from humanity's ancestral desire for knowledge, coincident with research into new techniques to increase ecological and agricultural productivity.

In light of the enormous social and technological change that humanity is undergoing, *Fostering the Garden* is an invitation very different from the one Voltaire offers at the conclusion of *Candide* to "cultivate your garden". By starting with the garden, one searches for a conscience in the ongoing processes of globalization.

The ecological problems from which Campania is suffering have brought international attention to the region. It is urgent to give visibility to the examples of landscape preservation and ecological awareness: examples of protected sites and exemplary gardens may offer a model to other sites in the region.

The participants

Lorenzo Benedetti, curator, Alessandro Bertolotti, writer, Charlotte Bonduel, philosopher, Giovanna Caputo, curator, Bernard Dewulf, writer, Francesca di Nardo, curator, Ettore Favini, artist, Gloria Friedmann, artist, Paolo Giordano, architect, Bertrand Lavier, artist, Olaf Nicolai, artist, Chiara Parisi, curator, Domenico Parisi, scientist, Michel Racine, writer, Marco Scotini, curator, Melania Bugiani, architect, Nicola Setari, philosopher, Chris Starkey, architect, Zac Stevens, architect.



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The partners

The ongoing collaboration between Janus Magazine and the Dena Foundation for Contemporary Art produced in the past the summer symposiums of 2006 and 2007. This year they benefit from the collaboration with the Compagnia di San Paolo, which follows with great attention to the themes of landscape conservation and contemporary art, that supports and funds the symposium. The other partners of the projects, with their financial support and services, are the Comune di Praiano, the NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti of Milan and the Politecnico di Milan with its Master in Paesaggi Straordinari.

The LeWitt Foundation, whose cultural vocation has been strongly embraced by the inheritors of the great artist Sol LeWitt, who passed away last year, finds its roots in the extraordinary attention of the master towards the creativity of other artists and in the generosity towards the younger ones, supports the participation of two american specialists coming from the School of Forestry of Yale University.

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