

NUCRÉ

II edition

Contemporary Art Festival

From July 22 to September 30, 2023

THE COURT BALLET

Curated by **Roberto Lacarbonara**

(22 July – 30 September 2023)

Castello Ducale (Sala dei Sindaci e Scuderie)

**Dina Danish, Angelo Filomeno, Elena Mazzi, Angelica Mesiti, Marzena Nowak,
Giulia Parlato, Luca Trevisani**

LEGGERE GRAVITÀ

Dedicated to Rubina Ciraci

Curated by **Arechi Invernizzi**

(22 July – 19 August 2023)

Trullo Rubina

**Antonio Catelani, Émile Gilioli, Federico Maddalozzo, Jasmine Pignatelli,
Matteo Pizzolante, Tereza Štětinová, Jelena Tomašević, Giuseppe Uncini**

press kit including insights, photos and videos

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The second Edition of NUCRÉ | Contemporary Art Festival, held in the municipality of Ceglie Messapica (Brindisi), will begin on July 22, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

The project, launched by Rita Urso and Arechi Invernizzi's initiative (Artopiagallery, Milan), with the support of the Municipality of Ceglie Messapica and the Emilio Notte Art Gallery, and the sponsorship of the Puglia Region and the F. Ribezzo Archaeological Museum, Brindisi, will be taking place in two locations this year: the Castello Ducale - involving the Sala dei Sindaci and the Scuderie, reopened to the public for the first time in over forty years - will host the group exhibition *The Court Ballet*, curated by Roberto Lacarbonara, while Trullo Rubina, in the Menzella district, will host the group exhibition *Leggere Gravità*, curated by Arechi Invernizzi and dedicated to Rubina Ciraci.

"Nucré" is a compound word formed by the dialect terms "nu" + "cré" and represents a recurring vernacular formula, generally indicating "one day," alluding to hope, promise, and destiny. The term refers to one of the most famous poems by Pietro Gatti, a prominent local author and one of the most influential regional poets of the 20th century, to whom the civic library is dedicated.

Through a tribute to the renowned personality of **Aurelia Sanseverino** (1498-1562), the "useful lady and ancient mistress" of the feud of Ceglie, NUCRÉ opens the Castello Ducale's doors to the public to host the exhibition **The Court Ballet**, dedicated to the topic of dance and music. This unique "invitation to court" aims to evoke the customs of an enlightened and generous noblewoman who not only provided the city with social works - such as the hospital and the convent of San Giovanni Evangelista - but also contributed to the architectural development of the manor and the historic center, allowing citizens to cross the thresholds of the Castle for musical performances and to view the artworks from the baronial collection. The history of the noble palace, a place of culture and civic participation, now gathers suggestions and dialogues between contemporary art and some archaic and anthropological phenomena related to the cult of dance, closely intertwined with the exposition's locations. The artists featured in the exhibition, gathered in the Castle's stable, will be **Dina Danish, Angelo Filomeno, Angelica Mesiti, Marzena Nowak, and Luca Trevisani**.

Will be, also, presented an unpublished photographic work by **Giulia Parlato** dedicated to the *Capitello della Danza*, housed in the **Regional Archaeological Museum "Francesco Ribezzo"** in Brindisi, directed by the architect Emilia Mannozi. The capital, an authentic medieval jewel – recently restored by the Artistic Pirro company under the high supervision of the ABAP Superintendence of the Brindisi and Lecce provinces – is considered one of the most relevant and significant testimonies of the Norman presence in the Brindisi region (and to that same age dates back the central nucleus of the Castle of Ceglie, too), especially for its unusual subject choice, depicting twelve male and female characters participating in a dance scene.

A further aspect of exploration in the festival will be the theme of *Pizzica Serpentata Cegliese*, an ancient form of musical and vocal expression in the local tradition with a magical-ritual nature and used to cure people believed to be possessed by an animal symbol such as the snake. **Elena Mazzi's** work is dedicated to this form of illness and its traditional healing methods.

LOCATION: **Castello Ducale**, Ceglie Messapica, Via Chiesa 11

Opening: Saturday, July 22, 2023, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Visiting hours: Mon-Fri 9.30 - 12.30 a.m., 6 – 9 p.m.; Sat-Sun: 6 - 9 p.m.

Free admission

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The Trullo Rubina in the Menzella district of Ceglie Messapica will be the venue for the collective exhibition *Leggere Gravità* (Light Gravity), a project dedicated to Rubina Ciraci and curated by Arechi Invernizzi.

The Trullo, with its unique architectural shape and history, serves as the inspiring motif for the exhibition's theme, which explores the concept of lightness in its intimate and paradoxical relationship with its opposite, gravity, interpreted as the physicality and compactness of matter.

The simplicity of the construction method makes these dwellings "light" and somewhat provisional. The limestone slabs, stepped fitted, without mortar or cement, challenge the force of gravity in their tension towards the sky and can be easily dismantled, as used to occur during the Bourbon period, when Spanish collectors, sent by the Kingdom of Naples, would come to collect taxes on properties. At the same time, the heavy quadrangular base with thick walls assigns the Trullo a connotation not only of solidity and safety but also of resistance to the adversities of time and anchoring to the earth.

Each one of the exhibited works reflects the suggestion of the oxymoron from which the exhibition takes its title and navigates in a territory that is both suspended and middle ground, hanging in the balance and yet drawing substance from that very territory as a counterweight, and where lightness can overturn into its opposite.

The ephemeral world outlined by the shadows pinpointed by **Maddalozzo**, **Pignatelli**, and **Uncini** evokes a plastic composition, transforming a fragile and ambiguous element into something stable and visibly concrete. Similarly, the severe and rigorous forms of **Gilioli's** steel sculptures play with the multiple reflections of light, while in **Catelani's** paintings, the instability of color erases the distinction between matter and image. **Tomašević's** surreal collages and **Pizzolante's** digital prints open up an inexplicable and metaphysical universe where humans are infinitely small, and memory becomes tangible.

Finally, **Štětínová's** reinterpretation of traditional Bohemian ex-votos shows a discrepancy between the subject's lightness, fluidity, and fragility and the stiff material, linden wood, it is made of.

Location: **Trullo Rubina**, Contrada Menzella, Ceglie Messapica

Opening: **Saturday, July 22, 2023, from 9 to 11 p.m.**

Visiting hours: By appointment (39) 348 31 37 994; Mon-Fri 6 – 8 p.m.

Both exhibitions will be accompanied by a bilingual catalog featuring texts by Francesca Di Giorgio, Arechi Invernizzi, and Roberto Lacarbonara.

A Project by:

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