

PRESS RELEASE

Atelier dell'Errore
Più penetrante di un cristallo di radio
open studio
21–22 April 2018



In conjunction with the 2018 Fotografia Europea festival—“Revolutions: Upheavals, Changes, Utopias”—and parallel to the opening of the Lutz & Guggisberg exhibition *il giardino* at Collezione Maramotti, Atelier dell'Errore BIG opens its studio to the public for the second time, in an event titled *Più penetrante di un cristallo di radio*.

On the third floor of the Collezione venue, at the center of an almost labyrinthine display presenting many different works from recent years, visitors will find a workshop containing the Atelier's latest advanced-stage projects, inspired by the revolutionary figure of Marie Curie. These two huge, archetypal, entomological “graphitographs,” shown to the public for the first time, suggest that a poetic gaze can transform the fragile graphite of an ordinary pencil into an element that irradiates everything in its path, “penetrating deeper than a radium crystal.”

Just like radioactive elements, the young people at the Atelier dell'Errore tend to be invisible, yet are possessed of amazing power, an intense force channeled into extraordinary creativity; they also have the ability to penetrate the surface of things and—as boldly as the world's greatest scientists—*imagine the unimaginable*.

Like gamma rays, the Atelier participants are “materials” that must be handled with care, and the radiation they give off can be detected and revealed only by a special device: art.

The imagery of the Atelier dell'Errore artists swarms with ancestral animals, organisms that elude any traditional scientific classification, and induces a change in perspective: by reinventing zoology as we know it, the Atelier creatures become paradigms and protagonists of a new, possible reality. These animals unquestionably embody the fears and conflicts of the young people who have drawn them, but above all, their need for protection and hunger for self-assertion.

Humming with a visionary, revolutionary power, the works that come out of the Atelier show how its participants require reassurance and support in order to achieve the self-confidence and self-esteem that will allow them to interact fruitfully with other people.

The ground rules at the Atelier are few, but clear: nothing is ever to be erased—because mistakes must be valued—and animals are the only subject depicted.

The Atelier drawings are often collaborative works, giving rise to a collective artistic, relational experience—a sort of “social sculpture.”

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Collezione Maramotti

21 April: admission reserved for guests at the invitation-only vernissage of the Lutz & Guggisberg exhibition

22 April: free admission 10.30am–6.30pm. At 11.00am the Atelier dell'Errore BIG youngsters will be present for a little performance.

Info

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Editor's Note

Atelier dell'Errore BIG

Atelier dell'Errore BIG is an advanced school of the visual arts founded in 2015 as an outgrowth of the Atelier dell'Errore, a visual arts workshop serving young people in neuropsychiatric care.

Atelier dell'Errore BIG was created at the urging of parents whose children, upon turning 18 and exiting the Child Neuropsychiatry Department, would no longer be able to continue their artistic journey with the Atelier dell'Errore.

Since its foundation, the Atelier dell'Errore BIG has been hosted by the Collezione Maramotti, a private collection of contemporary art, located in Max Mara's historic headquarters in Reggio Emilia, which opened to the public in 2007.

Several major projects have grown out of the collaboration with the Collezione Maramotti and Max Mara:

- *Uomini come cibo* (2015), a large-scale exhibition that occupied all five floors of a historic palazzo in Milan during EXPO 2015, turning the Expo's "food" theme upside down by presenting a vast array of animals hunting and eating human beings;

- *The Guardian Animals + other invisible beings* (2016), an exhibition at Moretti Gallery organized for Frieze London 2016;

- *Atlante di zoologia profetica / Prophetic Zoological Atlas* (2016), a volume published by Corraini Edizioni, edited by Marco Belpoliti, with essays by Antonella Anedda, Genuario Belmonte, Marco Belpoliti, Chandra Livia Candiani, Gabriella Caramore, Ermanno Cavazzoni, Michela Dall'Aglio Maramotti, Giuseppe Di Napoli, Daniele Gianotti, Massimiliano Gioni, Nicole Janigro, Eva Pattis, Bianca Tosatti and Luigi Zoja;

- *Open studio* (2017+2018), which opened Atelier dell'Errore BIG to the public during the Fotografia Europea festival in Reggio Emilia.