

For the third round of 2023, **Spazio Leonardo** is pleased to present *Upside/Down*, a solo exhibition by **Gabriella Ciancimino** (1978, Palermo), an artist who carries out a research based on relationships and on a conception of the artwork as a moment of encounter/exchange between individuals. *Upside/Down* brings together a body of works created between 2020 and 2023 and is conceived as a journey that unfolds along the walls of Spazio Leonardo's "open world". For the long wall of the gallery, Gabriella conceived a wall painting, a leitmotif of her artistic practice, which suggests looking at the world "upside down", changing the perspective on things and awakening consciousness, like children who explore the world through fresh eyes. Thus, symbolically upside down, through the wall drawing the artist explores an underground landscape made of intertwining patterns, seemingly suggesting new physical landscapes and emotional scenarios hidden in the ground, where one can discover roots recently sprouted from planted seeds.

Irregular, sometimes sharp, sometimes rounded lines create an almost lunar atmosphere and symbolise the rupture of a linear sense of time upon which history is traditionally based, where past, present, and future become merely a convention to mark the passing of time. Therefore, the wall drawing appears as a timeless page and serves as a backdrop for drawings on paper appearing as pop-up windows, from which to glimpse images of lost worlds or ones yet to be explored, but within which finite forms and familiar iconographies can be observed.

The wall-based pieces have been created with interwoven paper pieces, evoking both the technique used by nomadic peoples to make carpets inside their tents, and the pixel grids of digital images. Upon these weaves, the artist intervenes with images drawn from Renaissance Iconology, botanical references, plants from ancient worlds or distant countries, as well as poetic compositions conceived by the artist herself, in search for new visions to be shared with the audience.

Exhibition open to the public:

October 30, 2023 – January 12, 2024

Monday to Friday

09:00 AM – 06:00 PM

Spazio Leonardo

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Gabriella Ciancimino's (Palermo, 1978) solo exhibitions include "Getsemani" at the Museo del 900 di Milano, "I can't swim without a sky" at Galleria Gilda Lavia (Rome, 2020), "IN LIBERTY WE TRUST" - collateral event of Manifesta 12, Palazzo Ziino (Palermo, 2020), and "All'allerbaggio" at Museo Villa Croce (Genoa, 2013). Her works have been exhibition in international institutions such as MMOMA (Moscow, 2016), MACBA (Barcelona, 2014), Triennale di Milano (2014), La Kunsthalle, Centre d'art contemporain Mulhouse (2013), PAV (Turin, 2013),

L'appartement 22 (Rabat, MO, 2010/2012). Among her most significant projects are "Smell in Dialect," a permanent installation commissioned by KCHC (Brooklyn, 2019), "Biennale Benin" (Cotonou, 2012), "Volume 1 project of 'Sentences on the banks and other activities'" exhibition project at Darat al Funun (Amman, 2010), and "Working For Change. Project for A Moroccan Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale" (Venice, 2011). Her works are part of public collections including Museo del Novecento (Milan), Palazzo Riso, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea della Sicilia (Palermo), Museo Villa Croce (Genoa), and Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (Marseille, FR).

Spazio Leonardo is a workplace designed to welcome people, open to ever new guests and to the city of Milan. Established in 2018 in The Corner building, within the futuristic Porta Nuova District between Viale della Liberazione and Melchiorre Gioia, Spazio Leonardo is the headquarters of Leonardo Assicurazioni and was conceived to embody its philosophy: to be a dynamic laboratory for innovation, a meeting place for people, an integral part of the urban territory, a space where culture can be made. Since its inception, Spazio Leonardo has regularly hosted events, conferences, forums and contemporary art exhibitions, under the artistic direction of Una Galleria, Piacenza, to promote the work of young emerging artists while bringing the general public closer to an art form that often still remains confined to private galleries. In fact, the exhibitions hosted in the Gallery of Spazio Leonardo are accessible every day free of charge.