

Press Release

MARINELLA SENATORE. Afterglow

London, 9 June – 26 August 2022

Public installation (Battersea Power Station): 6 May – 10 June

Exhibit at the Embassy of Italy in London: 7 June – 30 June

Public installations (SIAL School, Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, and Petersham Nurseries): 9 June – 26 August

Conversation with the artist at the Embassy of Italy in London: Wednesday 8 June, 6 pm

Private view (London gallery): Thursday 9 June, 10 am – 4 pm

Performances (Battersea Power Station): Thursday 9 June, from 6 pm onward

*From the Oxford Dictionary: **afterglow** n 1 a light or radiance remaining after the source has disappeared. 2 a pleasant feeling remaining after a pleasurable experience.*

Mazzoleni is pleased to announce the **multi-site exhibition MARINELLA SENATORE. Afterglow**, taking place **from 9 June to 26 August 2022** at the **London gallery** at 15 Old Bond Street and at **selected sites** across the city, including the **Battersea Power Station**, the **SIAL School** and the **Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain** in Holland Park, and the **Petersham Nurseries** in Covent Garden.

Marinella Senatore follows up *Make it Shine* – her first solo exhibition with Mazzoleni, shown at the Turin gallery between November 2021 and January 2022 – with *Afterglow*, an exhibition that not only presents a **new body of sculptures and drawings** at the London gallery, but also **activates the city** across different **outdoor light installations and performances**.

The multi-site nature of *Afterglow* exemplifies Senatore's **multidisciplinary and participatory practice**, which is characterised by a strong collective dimension. Taking her inspiration from Southern Italy's *luminarie*, the elaborate light structures that traditionally adorn cities and recreate cathedrals, piazzas, and other architectural elements for outdoor public celebrations and religious festivities, the artist will insert her own **site-specific light sculptures** on the facades and forecourts of significant buildings across London. Senatore's '*luminarie*' "*are like monuments to and for people, to the 'here and now', to live actions and experiences.*"

Besides its participatory aspect, the theme of **light** is another crucial aspect to *Afterglow*. The light has been a fundamental element in Senatore's practice since her training at the National Film School in Rome, where she studied direction of photography and camera. The light, both electric and optic, material and metaphorical, proves to be a tool for narration and poetic creation, as well as for resistance and cohesion. As the artist explains, "*the light sculptures are generators of energy that - under the form of light beams - is propagated across a space, that changes it and modifies its structures as well as the individuals in it.*"

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On Wednesday 8 June, the Embassy of Italy in London will host a presentation of the project with a conversation with the artist and the display of two new light sculptures. **On Thursday 9 June**, the selected locations will be linked by a bus journey involving folk and opera singers and musicians, as well as collectors, curators, and journalists (defined by the artist as “storytellers”) who have previously been involved with *The School of Narrative Dance (SOND)*, **Senatore's renowned participatory project that counts a network of over 6.5 million participants across 23 countries**. SOND is a free of charge, nomadic school, focused on exploring new ideas of community, empowerment, and emancipation through different disciplines, such as music, dance, and spoken words. The bus will stop at selected locations **to “activate” the public installations with a series of participatory performances** involving local residents across London's diverse communities.

The outdoor light sculptures include: *Bodies in Alliance* (2021) on the facade of the building hosting the **Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain** and the **SIAL** (International Italian School in London), where the school's choir will participate with a singing recital; and *Assembly* (2021), a work comprising two monumental outdoor light installations, positioned in front of the Grade II* listed Power Station, in the newly opened six acre park facing the iconic **Battersea Power Station**, a space that “naturally” gathers communities and has hosted Senatore's projects previously in 2018 within the framework of Art Night London: a network of participants again reunited on the occasion of this celebration.

The **main performance**, taking place at Battersea Power Station, will be a series of ‘public actions’ revealing SOND's ‘linguistic dissonances’: a short circuit between a variety of languages and disciplines that release communal energy. Each performer shares core values with Senatore as well as personal, biographical connections. Senatore affirms: *“the social change happens thanks to the transformative power of collective experiences. The ‘personal flourishing’ always happens within the collective context, which is my idea of an active and transformative community.”*

These collective actions will involve different types of **music bands**, such as the South-London based “Melodians Steel Orchestra UK”, who will perform a specially commissioned up-tempo version of David Bowie's “Life on Mars” for the first time; **dancers**, including “Pointe Black”, a Black-owned ballet school that aims at an inclusive access to ballet in tune with concepts relating to the ‘decolonisation of the body’, and the “London Contact Improvisation”, a group of contact dancers, especially relevant after two years of social distancing; **choirs**, such as a gospel choir as well as members from the “Goldsmiths Choral Union”, the biggest amateur choir in England; a **soprano singer** who will perform a piece by Schubert, which represents a key moment in Senatore's life when she created her first artwork; a group of **body percussionists** who work with seniors, reflecting on mindful movements, the social space and the meaning of the old body in society; and the “Esprit Concrete” **parkour** group, which has been collaborating with Senatore for a long time and combines l'Art Du Déplacement with counselling psychology principles and therapeutic interventions, amongst others.

Afterglow is inscribed in the celebrations for the **10th anniversary of SOND** along with a broad series of exhibitions and events by Senatore scheduled for 2022 at **major institutions**, including the solo show *art meets city* in **Baden-Baden** between 15 July and 4 September. From 15 September 2022, Marinella Senatore will also present a series of performances, workshops, and displays at the **Palais de Tokyo** in Paris.

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Whereas the outdoor light sculptures exemplify Senatore's commitment to the transformative power of social engagement and community activation, the exhibition at the gallery captures a more **personal** and **immersive** experience. In an intimate “glowing in the dark” atmosphere – reminiscent of Fabio Mauri's *Moon* environment – the show brings together several previously unseen neon sculptures, light sculptures, and installations, which have been produced using a **mercury-free technology**. As a socially engaged activist, sustainability is crucial to Senatore, who has been committed to lowering the carbon-print of her practice for the last few years.

The wall-mounted light sculptures featured in the show include messages of empowerment, such as *Dance First Think Later*, a quote by Samuel Beckett. The display also presents the newest **glass sculptures** in lost-wax casting glass: *I Contain Multitudes*, quoting Walt Whitman, and *Autoritratto* (Self-Portrait), featuring the artist's life-size casted hands, an iconographic element that often returns in the artist's work.

Collages and **drawings** – emerging from various contexts such as learning theatre, oral histories, vernacular forms, protest dance and music, public ceremonies, civil rituals, and mass events – will also be part of the exhibition. Through her participatory practice, Marinella Senatore questions the bio-politics of different communities and circumvents the traditional roles of artist and audience, extending the idea of “assembly”, “community”, and “rituals.” For example, *It's Time to Go Back to the Street* is a continual series of drawings that explore the multifaceted forms and rich legacies of protests in different countries, while also engaging with ecologies of affiliation, affection, empowerment, and belonging.

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MARINELLA SENATORE

Marinella Senatore (Cava de' Tirreni, 1977) is a multidisciplinary artist trained in music, fine arts, and cinema. Her practice is characterised by a strong collective and participatory dimension; her work combines aesthetic research with the transformative power of social engagement. Senatore's works and performances have been commissioned and exhibited by Italian and international institutions alike, including: High Line, New York; Queens Museum, New York; Centre Pompidou Paris; Kunsthaus Zürich; Pearl Art Museum; MAXXI; Palais de Tokyo; Schirn Kunsthalle; Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago; Berlinische Galerie; Museo del Novecento, Milan; Kunsthalle Sankt Gallen; Faena Art Forum, Miami; Bozar; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo; Museums der Moderne Salzburg; Serpentine Gallery; CCA Tel Aviv; Museo Madre; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; ICA, Richmond; Petach Tikva Museum of Art; BAK Utrecht; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo; Palazzo Grassi; Museo Boijmans Van Beuningen; Moderna Museet. The artist has participated in the following contemporary art biennials: São Paulo Biennial; Venice Biennale; Lyon Biennial; Thessaloniki Biennial; Liverpool Biennial; Athens Biennial; Havana Biennial; Gothenburg Biennial; Cuenca Biennial; Pune Biennial; South Tyrol Biennial; Bangkok Biennial; and Manifesta12, Palermo. Upcoming projects include solo exhibitions at: Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Horst, Villooerde; Museum Villa Stuck, Munich; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg; and CCA, Tel Aviv.

The School of Narrative Dance (SOND)

In 2012, Marinella Senatore created *The School of Narrative Dance (SOND)*, a nomadic, free of charge, and non-hierarchical school that proposes an alternative educational system based on emancipation, empowerment, and self-education. With SOND, the artist creates platforms that invite professional and non-professional community members to create site-specific collective movements and storytelling activities, aligned with the collective rituals of public festivals and protests alike. So far, the school's activities have taken place in over 23 countries, involving about 6.5 million people.

PERFORMERS (9 June 2022)

Al Snow Wrestling Academy; Anna Marmion; Caroline Waters; Crystal Palace Brass Band; Exhale Pilates London; Fulham Brass Band; Get Gospel; Goldsmiths Choral Union; Jennifer Reid; Lee Payne; London Contact Improvisation; London Sport Academy; Melissa Adriana Parmar; Melodians Steel Orchestra; Esprit Concrete; Pointe Black; Pole people; Pumpkin Jigsaw; SIAL School Choir; Tangolicious; The Balkan Village Band; The Beat Goes On; The School of Narrative Dance Archive.

MAZZOLENI

Mazzoleni was founded in Turin in 1986 by Giovanni and Anna Pia Mazzoleni as a natural evolution of the private collection they started in the 1950s. Since 2014, the historic Turin space has been flanked by the London gallery in Mayfair. Over the past three decades Mazzoleni has organised solo and group exhibitions of more than 200 prominent Italian and international artists from across the 20th century with an exhibition programme focused on museum-calibre Italian art from the post-war period and recently also the contemporary panorama, working in close collaboration with artists' estates and foundations. Under the leadership of Davide and Luigi Mazzoleni, the gallery has intensified its international activities, participating in numerous art fairs, including Art Basel (Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong), Frieze Masters (London and Seoul), TEFAF (Maastricht and New York) and FIAC (Paris).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition: *MARINELLA SENATORE. Afterglow*

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