



Isola Art Center

> New entrance: Via Confalonieri 10A

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situazioneIsola

A New Urbanism

curators **Marco Biraghi, Maurizio Bortolotti, Bert Theis**

with the support of **NABA** and **Forum Isola** and the official support of the **Province of Milan**

Special Event

Saturday 14 April 2007, 11.00-18.00, Giardini di via Confalonieri, Isola

Tomas Saraceno:

Think global, act local! (project curator **Maurizio Bortolotti**), for the creation of the first flying museum: **Museo Aerosolar**. Construction of a solar energy hot-air balloon with the inhabitants of the Isola neighborhood, and flight test. The Argentine artist and architect **Tomas Saraceno** has developed this project during a long residency, in close contact with local residents and the young artists of **Isola Art Center**. Hundreds of people have collected thousands of plastic shopping bags to create this group work. The project is being developed on a **global scale** with the collaboration of other institutions. The collection of plastic bags has also been done at: Sharjah Biennial 8, **UAE United Arab Emirates**, La casa del encuentro cerca a el museo de Antioquia- Medellín, **Colombia**, Flugzeug Hanger, Flugplatz am Burghof 55 Bonamese/Kalbach- **Germany**.

Collettivo 3.2.1.:

Workshop on the construction of paper balloons, for children of the Isola neighborhood. This is the second appointment after the success of the event held on 24 March. The project of Collettivo **3.2.1.** is connected to that of Tomas Saraceno and has also made it possible to get local children involved, a fundamental factor for the construction of the Center for Art and the Quarter in the parks of the neighborhood, Isola-**Q'ART**, the workshop activated by **Forum Isola**.

Exhibition opening

Monday 16 April 2007, 18.00-21.00, Isola Art Center

16 April – 15 May 2007

Thursday and Saturday, 16.00-19.00 and by appointment

Tomas Saraceno, Argentina, **FlyingCity**, Korea (project curated by **Marco Scotini**), **Paola Di Bello**, **King's** (Daniele Inamorato and Federica Perazzoli), **Marco Colombaioni** and **Bert Theis**, **Steve Piccolo** with **Xabier Iriondo**, **Donata Clovis** and **Manuel Scano**, **Luciana Andreani**, **Christophe Bouvet**, **Brice Della strada e Giovanni Giaretta**, **Mara Ferreri**, **Alek O.**, **Alice Pintus**, **Luca Pozzi**, **Anja Puntari**, **Collettivo 3.2.1**, **Love Difference**, **Osservatorio inOpera**, **ufficio out**, **Forum Isola**, **Design Course** of the **Nuova Accademia di Belli Arti (NABA)** in collaboration with the **Parents' Association F. Confalonieri** ("Piedibus")

The exhibition tries to explore the cultural and social value of an experience like that of the **Isola Art**

Center, in the Isola neighborhood in Milan, as well as the desire and interest of the local residents and a number of artists to produce a gathering place inside a neighborhood with a relatively unified social fabric. The show reinterprets the Isola Art Center phenomenon in relation to the ideas of the **Situationist International** in the 1960s, a movement that had a particularly active section in Milan.

The question taken as a starting point was "which Situationist ideas still survive today, and how many of these ideas still respond to the needs of contemporary life?" In this perspective, "to what extent does an experience like that of **Isola Art Center** now represent a form of 'new urbanism', based on a different way of thinking about urban space and the social ties that form inside it?"

To develop the **Isola Art Center** project in the light of Situationist ideas, **situazioneIsola** has three closely interconnected parts.

- A historical part on Situationist ideas and materials, especially writings, presented in a different way to indicate action-concepts.

- A part on the projects completed by **Isola Art Center** together with local institutions and residents, projects that in some ways reflect the modes of implementation and experimentation of the Situationist legacy.

- A part on contemporary artists, with the participation of Flying City and the special project "*Think global, act local*" by the Argentine artist and architect Tomas Saraceno, produced in collaboration with the inhabitants of the neighborhood and the young artists of Isola Art Center.

To underline the timely pertinence of the Situationist movement, the exhibition attempts to evaluate how many of its ideas have become part of the behaviors and modes with which people experience the city today.

The possibility of connecting parts of the city neglected by the everyday functions active inside them becomes an interesting point for identification of forms of spontaneous aggregation, offering a different interpretation of urban space.

The projects will be placed inside the **Isola Art Center** and in the nearby parks, or precisely in public spaces that are threatened with demolition due to the city's plans for the transformation of the area.

Curators:

Marco Biraghi teaches contemporary architectural history at the Milan Polytechnic. He works with a number of architecture magazines, and is part of the editorial staff of "Casabella". He has written and edited many books on 20th-century architectural culture and criticism. He has lectured at Columbia University and Cooper Union in New York, the Faculty of Fine Arts of Toronto and the Berlage Institute of Rotterdam.

Maurizio Bortolotti is an art critic and curator. He contributes to Domus magazine and the online magazine of the University of Leeds, "Seconds". Curator of Art Experience for Domus Academy. He has recently been curator of the following projects: "No Vitrines, No Artists, No Museums: Just a Lot of People", with Rirkrit Tiravanija, Pierre Huyghe, Philippe Parreno (2004); "Modelmania", with Olafur Eliasson (2005), Venice; with Marco Scotini "The Utopian Display Platform" 2003-2006, Milan; "Yona Friedman. A Project for MART", 2006, Mart, Rovereto. He is now working on projects for Istanbul, Venice, Luxembourg and Birmingham.

Bert Theis. Born in Luxembourg, resident in Milan since 1992. He has worked on contemporary art projects at the Isola since 2001, as an artist and subcurator. In 2002 he created OUT (Office for Urban Transformation), with offices in Milan and Mexico DF. He has taken part in international art events like the Venice Biennale 1995, Sculpture. Projects in Münster 1997, Arte all'Arte 1998, Manifesta 1998, Biennial of Gwangju 2002, Biennial of Tirana 2003, Biennial of Busan 2006.

