

Press release

ECCO

Noriko Baba, Coralie Barbe, Adila Bennedjai-Zou, Simon Boudvin, Gaylord Brouhot, Anne-James Chaton, Mathilde Denize, Alice Dusapin, Fernando Garnero, Alice Grégoire, Félix Jousserand, Jacques Julien, Estefanía Peñafiel Loaiza, Clément Périssé, Georges Senga, Apolonia Sokol.

With the participation of Michele Flammia, Roberto Folliero and Lulù Nuti.

Annual exhibition of the French Academy in Rome's fellows 18 June – 8 August 2021

Curator: Laura Cherubini

ECCO: this year's exhibition of the Fellows of the French Academy in Rome takes the form of an exuberant exclamation that restores and extends the work of a year at the Villa Medici. Presented from **18 June to 8 August 2021** under the curatorship of **Laura Cherubini**, the exhibition brings together the work of **sixteen artists, creators and researchers** at the end of a year's residency of creation, experimentation and research at the Villa Medici.

Resolutely multidisciplinary, **ECCO** highlights the articulation between individual creations and group projects, and weaves unexpected links between the disciplines represented, from **painting** to **sculpture** via **photography, architecture, sound creation, art history and theory, musical composition, the plastic arts** and **literature**.

The uniqueness of this 2021 edition lies in the fruitful encounter between sixteen personalities and as many artistic languages, which coalesced into a collective editorial project developed throughout the year of residency and which today constitutes one of the entry points to the exhibition. This ensemble project, conceived by the Fellows in the autumn of 2020, took the form of a **monthly digital magazine** (ecco-revue.com) which welcomes contributions in a wide variety of forms: videos, texts, sound traces, photographs and drawings. With a free-form experimental design, the magazine is split into seven issues, each taking as its theme a basic word that evokes a sound and/or a form as a pretext for reflection.

VILLA MÉDICIS

The end-of-year exhibition fits into this collaborative context through which the Fellows have given shape to a "provisional community", as curator Laura Cherubini puts it. The installation of each of the projects - some of which were imagined as a reflection of the magazine and others which are unrelated - will reveal other aspects of contemporary creation.

The ECCO exhibition is accompanied by an **artists' book** containing a selection of works by Fellows of the French Academy in Rome, published at Manfredi Edizioni. The book is available for sale at the Villa Medici (28€).

The sixteen Fellows of the 2020-2021 programme (biographies and projects available at the links below):

Noriko Baba, composer, Paris

Coralie Barbe, restorer, Paris

Adila Bennedjai-Zou, sound documentarist, Paris

Simon Boudvin, artist, Bagnolet

Gaylord Brouhot, art historian, Paris

Anne-James Chaton, author, Paris

Mathilde Denize, visual artist, Paris

Alice Dusapin, editor and independent researcher, Lisbon

Fernando Garneró, composer, Paris

Alice Grégoire and Clément Périssé, architects, Rotterdam

Félix Jousserand, writer, Montpellier

Jacques Julien, sculptor, Paris

Estefanía Peñafiel Loiza, artist, Paris

Georges Senga, photographer, Lubumbashi/Maastricht

Apolonia Sokol, painter, Paris

Information on visiting the exhibition is available on the website:
villamedici.it

DOWNLOAD A SELECTION OF IMAGES: [click on this link](#)

Laura Cherubini, curator of the ECCO exhibition, is an art historian, critic and independent curator. A student of Giulio Carlo Argan and Maurizio Fagiolo dell'Arco, Laura Cherubini became Chair of Contemporary Art History at the Brera Academy in Milan in 1992. From March 2011 to December 2017, she was vice-president of the MADRE Museum in Naples. In March 2019, as Director of the MACTE Museum (Termoli Museum of Contemporary Art), she was in charge of opening the museum with works from the Termoli Prize, which she is now curating for the 62nd edition. As an art critic, she writes for daily newspapers and specialised magazines, notably *Flash Art* (Italy and international). In 1990 she curated the Italian pavilion at the Venice Biennale and won the Carluccio Prize for Young Critics. In 1993, she curated the *Macchine della pace* exhibition at the Venice Biennale. From 2005 to 2007, she oversaw the programme for contemporary art at the ING-Calcografia Nazionale, in Rome. She has been a jury member of the Italian PS1-MoMA Board, the Premio Nazionale per la Giovane Arte (acquisition of the first group of works for MAXXI), the Furla Prize, the New York Prize, the Lugano Museum Prize, the ACEA Prize. She was a member of the Maretta Prize commission in Havana, Cuba, for two editions and curated the corresponding exhibitions. She is currently a member of the Rotary-Brera Prize Committee at MIART (International Fair of Modern and Contemporary Art in Milan). Previously a lecturer at La Sapienza and LUISS universities, Laura Cherubini published in 2020 the volume *Controcorrente. The great loners of Italian art. Boetti, De Dominicis, Fabro, Mauri, Pisani, Marisa Merz, Marinotti* Edition.

About the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

Founded in 1666 by Louis XIV, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is a French establishment located, since 1803, in the Villa Medici, a 16th-century villa surrounded by a seventeen-acre park, on Mount Pincio, in the heart of Rome.

A national public institution under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici fulfils three complementary missions: to welcome high-level artists, creators and art historians in residence for one-year stays or shorter; to set up a cultural and artistic programme that includes all fields of the arts and creation and is aimed at a broad audience; to conserve, restore, study, and make its architectural and landscape heritage, as well as its art collections, known to the public.

The French Academy in Rome - Villa Medici is directed by Sam Stourdzé.

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