Angelo Leonardo portfolio 2025



Detail of 'Ragusa Tama Ep. 17' from Nichinichi Shinbun's page, published in February 1931.

Courtesy of the National Diet Library Archives, Tokyo.

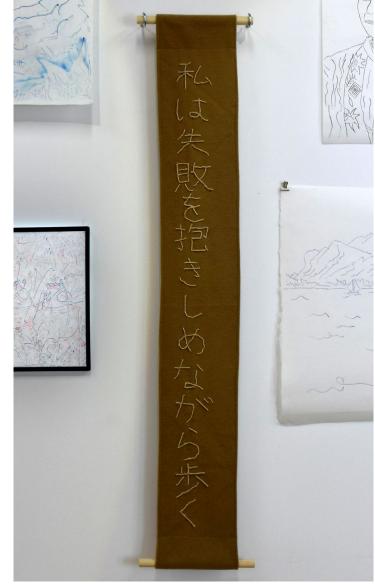


「お玉夫人回想談」(O'Tama Fujin Kaisōdan), courtesy of the Ikeda Memorial Museum in Urasa (Minamiuonuma, Niigata Prefecture)

"Tales from O'Tama" marks the first step in a broader research project. My goal was to travel to Japan to connect with those preserving the legacy of O'Tama Kiyohara (1861–1939), the Japanese artist who left her homeland in 1882 and lived in Palermo until 1933. Known in Sicily as Eleonora Ragusa, she became a symbolic witness to the complex encounter between East and West. Her life spanned an era of marvels—electric light, aspirations for global knowledge, and ultimately, the trauma of impending mass destruction. Her ambiguous story forms a crucial knot, raising profound questions about the brutality we still face today.

I first became aware of the controversial context surrounding O'Tama Kiyohara's life during one of my frequent conversations with Stefania Galegati, a long-time collaborator who will join me in developing this research further.

During my stay in Tokyo's historic downtown, I created original works inspired by The Story of O'Tama, which I presented in my solo exhibition「ある事」(Arukoto) at Art Lab Tokyo in Asakusa. The exhibition's title draws from a phrase in a manuscript titled「お玉夫人回想談」(O'Tama Fujin Kaisōdan), housed at the Ikeda Memorial Museum in Urasa (Minamiuonuma, Niigata Prefecture). This manuscript contains one of the few surviving interviews with O'Tama, conducted in 1930 when she was 69 years old.



私は失敗を抱きしめながら歩く (Watashi wa shippai o dakishimenagara aruku) #1, 2025, hand embroided on felt, 118x19 cm





The Origin of the world #1, 2025, ink on cotton, 106x179 cm



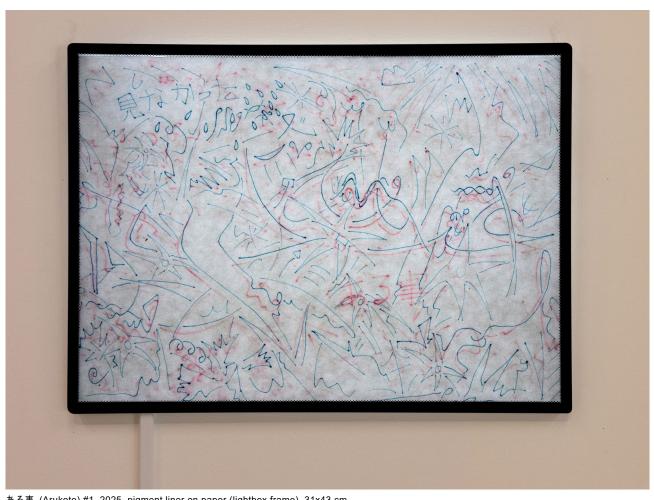
Man with gun #1, 2025, ink and pigment liner on cotton, $62x65\ cm$



よかった (Yokatta) #1, 2025, hand embroided on cotton, 52x88 cm



Untitled, 2025, pigment liner on paper (lightbox frame), 31x43 cm



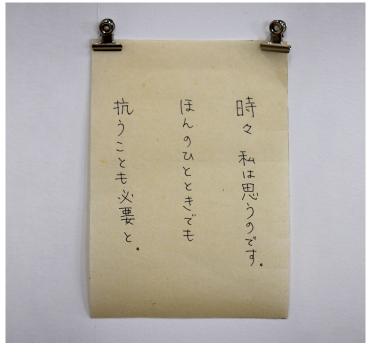
ある事 (Arukoto) #1, 2025, pigment liner on paper (lightbox frame), 31x43 cm



Uroboro #1, 2025, ink and pigment liner on cotton, 61x64 cm

時々 私は思うのです。ほんのひとときでも抗うことも必要と。時々 私は思うです。 ほんのひとときでも抗うことも必要と。

Sometimes I think that even for just a brief moment, it is necessary to resist.







スス払い (Susuharai) #1, 2025, pigment liner on paper (lightbox frame), 60x85 cm







Il primo bacio #1 2025 pigment liner on paper (lightbox frame) 85x60 cm







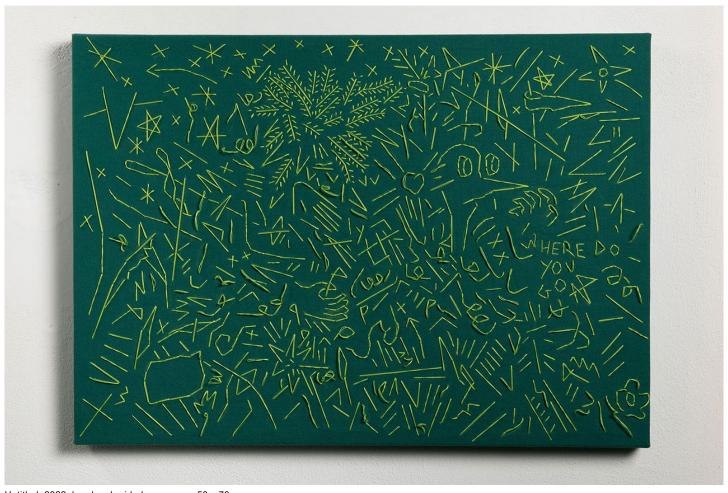
La mucca #1, 2022, hand embroided on denim, 110 x 140 cm



Untitled, 2022, hand embroided on pillow, 50 x 80 cm $\,$







Untitled, 2022, hand embroided on canvas, 50 x 70 cm $\,$



Untitled, 2023, hand embroided on canvas, $30 \times 40 \text{ cm}$



Darling, you're having an acute episode of imperial delusions, again! #3, 2023, hand embroided on canvas, 70×50 cm



Putto bitten by a dolphin #1, 2023, hand embroided on canvas, $50 \times 70 \text{ cm}$



Untitled, 2022, hand embroided on canvas, 70 x 50 cm $\,$



Mister Einstein on the beach #1, 2023, hand embroided on pillow, $80 \times 80 \text{ cm}$

collezione canalotto



Since 2015, I involved various professionals, archeologists, artists and musicians to visit "Vallone Canalotto" (a precious evidence of the byzantine domination in Sicily) to formulate hypothesis of new fruition and future processes to redefine the role of this place. Taking into account the profound socio-political and ecological changes, and reflecting on how and why it is necessary to interpret and rewrite the stories of the landscape in different, and multidisciplinary point of views. I like to think about this archeological site as a case study comparable to other public spaces around the world, for this reason I want to share the privilege of taking care of this place together with fellows.

'To collect' for me does not mean comparing this archeological site to the work a museum usually does. It should be a moment between the invited guests (artists and researchers) to donate a trace of their passage reflecting on the environmental, historical and social aspects. Therefore, a collection as a living organism, linking the ruins with new "in situ" productions. A dialogue between archeology and contemporary, to reflect on the dormant stories of this place, but also for observing the fight between proofs of 'precarious' human techniques, against the nature that irreversibly devours everything; telling us that it's always a big, hybrid, and complex tale.

Where is everybody?

collezione canalotto #4





Where is everybody?, 2020, HD video (film stills)

Where is everybody?, 2020, HD video, duration: 21'16"

https://vimeo.com/844889680?share=copy

The Stefania Galegati's intervention was carried out through an experiential process that involved researchers from different disciplines. Astrophysicists, archaeologists, art critics, researchers, philosophers, students and young artists were invited to a country house near the necropolis of Realmese, in a manner similar to Boccaccio's Decameron.

They were involved in philosophical and scientific discussions and invited to reflect on the difficulty of imagining a language outside of human experience. We started by comparing the many artificial caves of the territory and black holes, and we arrived at the consequences of general relativity and quantum mechanics on our imagination. After

this experience were produced a video installation, a unique copy of an artist's book, several drawing and hand-embroidered pillows.

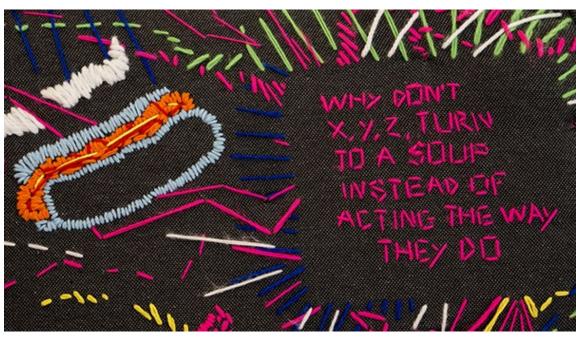
The title is inspired by a question that Enrico Fermi asked in the 1950s which later became an emblem of the possibility of other forms of life in the universe.

Where is everybody? is presented in may 2023 in an immersive installation hosted by a tiny church in Lecce curated by Eresie Pellegrine in collaboration with Kunstschau, and in september 2023 at Aterraterra LAB, Palermo.









II buco #1 2021 hand-embroidered pillow 170 x 45 x 17 cm



Corpi celesti, 2024, HD video, duration: 115'



Where is everybody? 2020 HD video installation view



Where is everybody?, 2020, HD video, installation view



untitled 2023 hand-embroidered pillow 60 x 50 x 14 cm





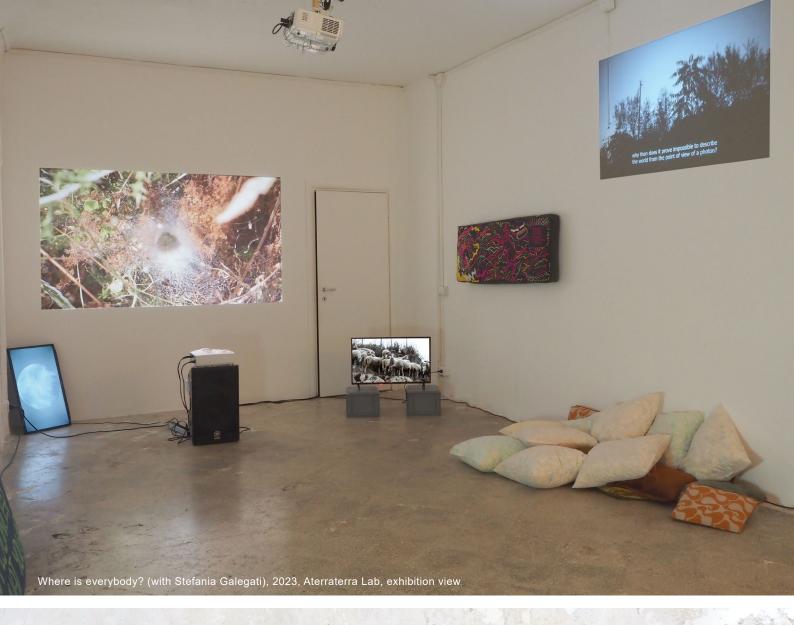
Stefania Galegati Dove sono tutti quanti? 2020 hand made book credits 30 x 42 cm



Stefania Galegati, Dove sono tutti quanti?, 2020, hand made book, pag 48/49

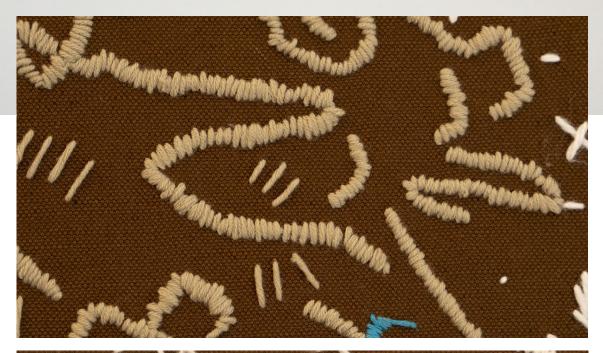














The starry night #1 2021 hand-embroidered pillow 170 x 45 x 17 cm



"La Religione dei Ricordi" took the form of a month-long residency culminated in an series of performances and installations in the archaeological sites of Necropoli of "Realmese" and "Villaggio Bizantino Canalotto". The group of artists produced works in direct response to these unique sites of historical and cultural significance, working in a range of mediums and fostering opportunities for multi-disciplinary dialogues between one another. This cicle of residency was supported by Wolfgang Tillmans & Between Bridges Foundation.

performance video: https://vimeo.com/287872338



Father Murphy, La Religione nei Ricordi, 2018, HD video (film stills)









La scimmia #1, 2020, hand embroided on cotton, 165 x 210 cm $\,$

season of mistakes Home sequence is a self-organized exhibition taking place in the private homes of Amsterdam-based artists, initiated and organized by Sascha Pohle and Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec. Home Sequence is a gesture that addresses the politics of space and representation, inverting the role of the artist as guest in public space to that of host in private space. It is simultaneously a withdrawal from public space and a making of one's own space public through an invitation. In 2019, involved by Tomo Savić-Gecan, I shared this participation with Angeliki Torzakaki and Silvia Mantellini Faieta. We were working together for a couple of months hosted by Silvia's tiny flat, and we called this moment "Season of mistaken".

https://www.homesequence.net/



Season of mistakes (with Silvia Mantellini Faieta and Angeliki Torzakaki) 2019 Home sequence exhibition view





Quiet horizon #1, (with Angeliki Torzakaki), 2019, HD video film, duration 4'11" minutes

Not so bad anyway, at least I could fix the dishwasher and buy a second bathub. Here wet bathubs never dry, one has the right to know that from the before. What's so bad in filling the emptiness as I do obsessively with excell files, and myriads of ignored receipts. Will stop expecting attention from my KvK bookkeeper, my dutch teacher is a theater director, she's so tender. One day she had us read out loud about this big partiarchal family where contraception was not "needed", and mothers were "lucky" enough not to work and take care of their children. There was something funny about it, cause some classmates laughed. And then I would focus on other things, and I won't have to steam my uniform extensively. My proletarian-aesthetics uniform. I secretly enjoy steaming, the sweat on my face and my cold body. But then I am here again, do you see our mòka? It has changed 7 houses in two years, and the drying rack has hosted bacterias for 46 bodies. The microwave has a name from its first owner, that no one knows anymore. Only thing that's mine, my iphone, my cloud, my cookies.

What if I quit everything and get back to life?

I am furious!

I am going to wash my uniform.





R II OI

PERIODICO CORTISTO ANNO XXIV Nº 23 2016

Part of E IL TOPO since 2014 as a co-author of several performances, actions, and publications. E IL TOPO is an international and transgenerational "movement" that conveys a subversive and libertarian attitude, whose modus operandi – subtly polemical, at times – acknowledges no preset roles, no personal styles.

An attitude of moving sideways, avoiding the beaten track, in an ongoing "knight's move"; an ability to defy expectations, to make unforeseen associations, to create contacts between ideas and people.



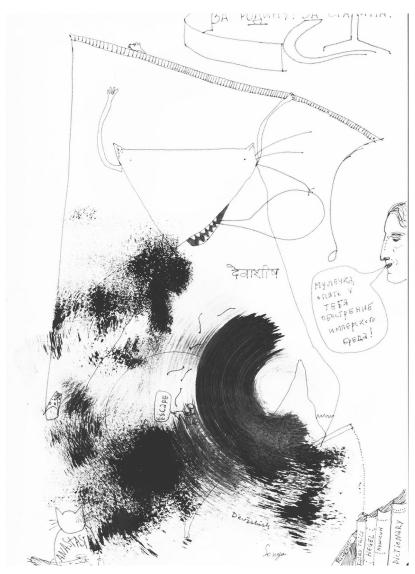
Concetto Ragatzu, E IL TOPO issue n. 19 "Castelli di sabbia", 2015, print on paper, 30,5 x 42 cm

Special E IL TOPO issue made during Manifesta 11 masterclass at ZHDK in Zurich.

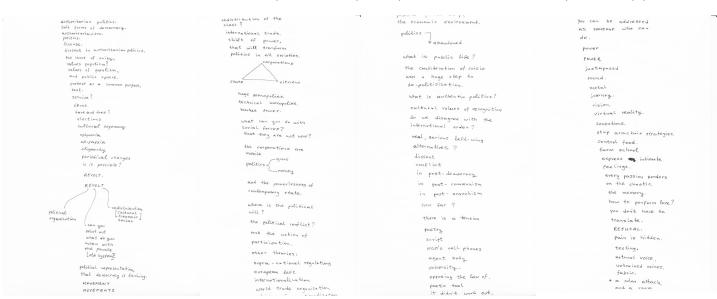
The whole issue is hand written by most of the people i've met there.

ASSEM ABDEL YURI AGUILAR SHAINA ANAND SOPHIA AKIMOVA PIETER AUGUSTIJN PALOMA AYALA SOFA BEMPEZA ANNAMARIE BRAND GALVEZ BARBARA BRAZAO VALENTINA CARDONE CECILIA CASTANEDA ARREDONDO TSE SING CAUN LUCIE EINDENBENZ JARDETT ERASMUS FRANZ KRAEHENBUEHL YANA KLICHUK ARSHAD HAKIM DAVID HERNÁNDEZ CASAS HO YIN LEUNG LAI LAI NATALIE LO GENEVIEVE LOUW YJAWTEM ANIMBAC MENDUN MIAO NARE MOKGOTHO NADIA MOUNIER ALEXANDRA NICOLAU ROMAN OSMINKIN ARKADIUS POLTORAK VRISHALI PURANDARE MARTINA RAPONI PHILIP RIZK HANAA SAFWAT GEORGIA SAGRI CHRISTOPH SCHENKER HEIKO SCHMID DEVASHISH SHARMA ARTHUR STEINER ASHOK SUKUMARAN ANASTASIA VEPREVA CHENKU WANG NIMA WILLIAMANN QIONG WU SHUYANG WU

Do not walk over this area 2016 hand written on paper 30,5 x 21 cm credits



"Dear, you're having an acute episode of imperial delusions, again! #1 (with Anastasia Vepreva, Sophia Akimova, and Devashish Sharma), 2016, ink on paper, 30,5 x 21 cm





BLUR N°5 - HER VARIATION E IL TOPO after David Liver

29 giugno h 19.30

A reenactement of the performance made by David Liver at gallery Nivet Carzon (Paris) in 2014. In 2016 a female version was made at Caffè Internazionale in Palermo where a group of high school girls, a French curator Françoise Lonardoni and Canadian artist Dagmara Stephan messed up the space. For one more time, some inquiring costumers of the Caffé, attracted by the spray cans left on the ground, continued, over the following weeks, to smear the walls.



BLUR N.5 - Her variation (with Françoise Lonardoni, Dagmara Stephan, Zoe Lupo, and Stella Allegra) 2016 performance





BLUR N.5, 2016, Caffè Internazionale Palermo, exhibition view









Angelo Leonardo Born in 1991, Enna, IT temporarly besed in Palermo

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education

2015 - BA Fine Arts, new media art, Naples, IT

2016 - Manifesta 11 masterclass "Negotiating space, art and dissent" Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, Zürich, CH

2018 - MFA Fine Arts, decoration, Palermo, IT

solo shows (selected)

2025 – ある事 (Arukoto), curated by Emiko Kato, ArtLab Tokyo ASK, Tokyo JP

2023 - Where is everybody?, with Stefania Galegati, Aterraterra LAB, Palermo IT

2023 - Where is everybody?, with Stefania Galegati, Eresie Pellegrine and Kunstshau, Lecce IT

2023 - Fare flanella, text by Francesco Tola, studioamatoriale, Milano IT

2022 - Wall project "Monkey see monkey do", Francesco Pantaleone Arte Contemporanea, Palermo, IT

2016 - La tomba di Elpenore (focus hotel Posta), produced by ruber contemporanea, Palermo, IT

group shows (selected)

2023 - Mercato Nero, a project by Paola Gagiotti, Adiacenze, Bologna IT

2023 – E IL TOPO, curated by Giorgio Verzotti, Museo Madre, Naples IT

2019 - NESXT independent art festival, hosted by Gekijou Video studios, Turin, IT

2019 – Home sequence, a project by Tao G. Vrhovec Sambolec and Sascha Pohle, Amsterdam, NL

2019 - MANIFESTO | iconografie dell'indipendenza, produced by NESXT and Mercato Centrale Torino at Macro, Rome IT

2017 – NESXT independent art festival, Caffè Internazionale venue, Turin, IT

2017 – i8 Spazi indipendenti #backtoitaly, ArtVerona, Verona, IT

2017 – The independent/Caffé internazionale: a project by Hou Hanru, curated by Giulia Ferracci, MAXXI, Rome, IT

2017 - Overcoming project: curated by Lorenzo Bruni, Lucca Art Fair, Lucca, IT

2017 - On the road, Pio Monti arte contemporanea, Rome, IT

2016 - The others art fair, Room23 - Caffé Internazionale, Turin IT

performances (selected)

2023 - The Last Days of E IL TOPO, Italian Cultural Institute, New York US

2019 - Il cieco e il toro, Thomas Dane Gallery, Napoli IT

2018 – Gran Fiera D'Ammenicoli Pseudo-Crisoelefantini#2 with: Alterazioni video, Ignazio Mortellaro, Irene Coppola, Valentina Greco, Carmelo Nicotra, Genuardi/Ruta, Tothi Folisi, Igor Scalisi, Marta Ferro, Giuseppe Adamo, Francesco Cuttitta, and Leone Contini, Palermo IT

2017 – Il cieco e il topo 1992/2017, Museo Ma*ga, Gallarate IT

2017 – One bright young italian silk meeting room, curated by Claudia Gangemi, part of the project "We are all involved in this mess" (with the support of Art Department of Goldsmiths, University of London and the Goldsmiths Annual Found), EnclaveLab, London, UK

2016 – E IL TOPO Her variation (after David Liver), Caffé Internazionale, Palermo, IT

2016 - E IL TOPO Le livre volé, Museo Madre, Naples IT

2015 – E IL TOPO La moule fabuleuse, part of Rob Pruitt flea market, A plus A gallery, Venice IT

residencies (selected)

2025 – Tales from O'Tama, KAB Library and Residency, a research project is granted by the Italian Council program (2024), Tokyo JP

2023/2024 – Koinòtes. La comunità germinativa, curated by Olga Gambari, Casa degli Artisti, Milano IT

2020 - Hisn al-giran for <Collezione Canalotto#4> Where is everybody?, Calascibetta, IT

2018 – Hisn al-giran for <Collezione Canalotto#3> La religione dei ricordi, Calascibetta, IT

2017 - Scuola del graffito, Archivio risignificazione, curated by Mimmo Longobardi, Montemurro, IT

publications (selected)

2023 - fuoriregistro #3, published by Boîte Edition

2023 - E IL TOPO (Storia di una rivista con un'insolita strategia editoriale), published by a+m bookstore

2021 – Kiosk editions issue 132, a project by Clementine Roy, LINK

2019 - E IL TORO issue n.24 a project by Jimmie Durham LINK

press (selected)

2023 - Zero.eu (Fare flanella), IT LINK

2020 – Repubblica.it (Scienziati che dibattono, un film di Galegati in diretta dalla Gam), IT LINK

2019 – Alternative Amsterdam #issue26 (Alle barrieres tussen kunstenaar en publiek worden afgebroken bij Home Sequence), NL LINK

2017 – ilsicilia.it (A Palermo manifesti anonimi con la scritta "After" su foto di grandi nomi della cultura), IT LINK

2016 – Archeologia Viva #issue180 pp.28-39 (Valle del Morello: un microcosmo al centro della Sicilia), IT LINK