

IDEAS OF STONE. GIUSEPPE PENONE IN CARACALLA



Progetto per Caracalla

Giuseppe Penone 2022

7.6

30.10.22

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Rome, Baths of Caracalla
7 June – 30 October 2022

Press release
Rome, 6 June 2022

Giuseppe Penone makes his entrance to the Baths of Caracalla with a project that adapts to the monument and its landscape while preserving the striking ruins.

“Ideas of stone. Giuseppe Penone in Caracalla” – from 7 June to 30 October 2022 – is a project promoted by the Special Superintendency of Rome, directed by Daniela Porro, produced by Electa and curated by Francesco Stocchi.

The artist has chosen to place the **four works in the circuit of the Baths of Caracalla**, setting them in the ancient *natatio*, where they will embrace visitors as they pass through it. *Identity* (2019 - aluminum, bronze), *Triplice* (2011 - bronze, river stones), *Idee di pietra, Olmo* (2008 - bronze, river stones) and *Idee di pietra, Ciliegio* (2011 - bronze, river stones) are timeless trees but they enclose and recount time through the artist's work.

“Contemporary art is at home in the Baths of Caracalla,” **declares the Special Superintendent of Rome Daniela Porro**, “as it was in the time of the Severian emperors, who adorned them with wonderful statues and decorations of great symbolic value, today scattered all over the world in museums, buildings and public spaces. And an artist celebrated worldwide like Penone, with “Idee di Pietra” brings to the Baths a moment of reflection on the emblematic relationship of humanity with nature, space and time.”

“The tree is not allowed to forget,” **Penone explained in one of his writings**. “Its contortions, its balance, the harmonious distribution of its masses, its static perfection, the freshness of its modeling, the purity of its structure combined with the compact character of its bronze surface make it a living sculpture.”

The tree in nature with the passing of time becomes sculpture in itself, with circle after circle engraved in the trunk that counts the passing of years, and centuries. Just as water smooths stones over the millennia, sculpting them. Penone shapes matter in a gesture that brings us closer to nature.

A creative journey that characterizes the whole progress of Giuseppe Penone, accompanied, when it is not preceded, by words and thoughts for the **first time published on this occasion in Italy**. **In conjunction with the project at the Baths of Caracalla Electa presents the writings of Giuseppe Penone in the volume “Respirare l'ombra”.**

The branches of Penone's sculptures will spread and shine with natural light reflected on the metal, in a context imbued with everyday life in the Antoninian Baths, which were the places of pleasure of the Romans. That life, ancient yet so modern, which cared for the hygiene of body and mind. It is in this socio-political space, so highly evolved in the spirit, a distinctive feature of the Roman baths, that **the contribution of the Piedmontese artist is integrated into the project begun some time ago by the Special Superintendency of Rome**. It regularly welcomes contemporary art into the site, while **always taking care to set off the historical value of the monument**. Penone's work has been described as “an art of time, to the extent that it is an art of space”. In this setting, the Baths of Caracalla, it creates a symbiosis with his artistic thou

THE BATHS OF CARACALLA AND CONTEMPORARY ART

- **2012: the Baths of Caracalla become a showcase for contemporary art.**
Michelangelo Pistoletto creates and donates to the Superintendency the *Terzo paradiso* created with finds from the Baths themselves.
- **2016:** Pistoletto creates *La mela reintegrata*, in Carrara marble, placed on permanent display at the center of the ancient guard post for the caretaker-controller of the carts, timber and men engaged in running the complex machinery of the Baths.
- **2017: first exhibition of contemporary art:** on October 19th, inauguration of *Molti*, an exhibition by **Antonio Biasiucci** curated by Ludovico Pratesi in the evocative setting of the subterranean levels of the Baths.
- **2018:** On June 13th, the opening of *Mauvo Staccioli. Sensibile ambientale*, the first major retrospective devoted to the Tuscan sculptor, who died on January 1, 2018, curated by Alberto Fiz. On October 23rd, opening of *Omnia Flumina Romam Ducunt*, an exhibition of sound architecture by **Alvin Curran** curated by RAM radioartemobile.
- **2019:** on June 18th, inauguration of *Plessi a Caracalla: il segreto del tempo*, an exhibition of visual installations by **Fabrizio Plessi** in the subterranean levels of the Baths, curated by Alberto Fiz.

Factsheet

TITLE **Ideas of stone. Giuseppe Penone in Caracalla**

Rome, Baths of Caracalla
viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 52

PROMOTED BY Soprintendenza Speciale di Roma
Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape

PRODUCTION
AND ORGANIZATION Electa

CURATED BY Francesco Stocchi

PERIOD October 7 June – 30, 2022

HOURS 9am - 7.15pm *until August 31, 2022*
9am – 7pm *from September 1 to 30*
9am – 6.30pm *from October 1 to 30*
Monday closed (open August 15)

TICKETS €8 full price
€2 reduced
€2 pre-sale fee online
*reductions and free admissions as required
by current legislation*

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