

## Introduction

Universal Love is a process of sensitization, a container of activities that aims to involve artists, curators and collectors, spaces and associations, in order to create and spread the culture of inclusion and openness to the other through art, always a promoter of interculture and new forms of expression and communication. It is a path driven by empathy, which takes place through the construction of a international network of associations and galleries.

The concept of universal love promotes a univocal vision-sharing of humanity's creation, problems, hopes and needs. This project aims to develop workshop events, happenings, exhibition and events. Contemporary art leads us to the essential inner / outer beauty that springs from the deeper truths of being.

Universal Love is a flexible container of activities which started in Italy and is now expanding globally through interactive and performative exhibition projects and the cooperative action (cooperative learning), which aims to involve a broad target of people, mainly aimed at young people, but also open to various ages and social groups; people with disabilities and struggels. Its greatest potential is to trigger, through empathy and artistic expression, reflection and openness to the other; developing expressive processes of help, growth and gratification (as well as technical-practical and learning of craft);structuring group relational and pragmatic networks.

The follwing pages illustrates some posters and photos from laboratories realized in the past years. Follows also the proposal that aims to expand the project in Tokyo.







ARTIST IN EXPOSURE AND WORKING IN PROGRESS CURATOR

Paolo Apolloni

FROM **23** TO **31**JULY 2017 time: 9.00 - 24.00

INAUGURATION | 23.07, h 21.00 specific work moment | 26.07, h 21.00

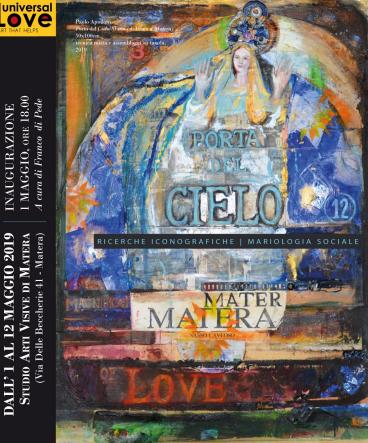
Gràcia City Hostel



Sabato 8 giugno ore 17.30

3iSENZi.

inaugurazione ed esposizione del percorso svolto (dal 16 febbraio al 1 giugno 2019) e finissage working progress laboratoriale





MOSTRA PERSONALE
PAOLO·APOLLONI

EVENTO CHE RIENTRA NELLA PROMOZIONE DI "MATERA 2019 - CITTÀ DELLA CULTURA EUROPEA"





























First draft of proposal for the Franciscan Chapel Center in Tokyo by Paolo Apolloni

# **Canticle of the Creatures**

Performative and awareness-raising workshop on Universal Love and the preservation of the planet

# General background information for the project / workshop

#### The basic theme is the Canticle of the Creatures of St. Francis:

The canticle of the creatures allows us to embrace both the aspect of the universal love of God (not only Christian) and to deepen the beauty and value of creation; raise awareness of environmental protection, a particularly important theme at the current global / universal level (underlined also from Pope Francis in the last encyclicals).

The project focuses on a group-workshop and expressive-performative reflective action; the text will be elaborated according to the methodology of cooperative learning by the group of participants, which can also aims to different target-groups in terms of ages and abilities / levels of knowledge (or with medium/serious difficulty-disability). The expressive work will be accompanied by both individual and group reflection's steps on the topic.

The curator / tutor guiding the project can be supported by other figures, in particular a photographer / director to provide documentation and other artists. tutors or guide, especially based on the number of participants (for example also a priest and / or theologian / catechist who wants collaborate to deepen the theme).

The project is part of the international projects of Universal love, a project container for laboratory, exhibition, awareness raising and fundraising activities, fto engage the paricipants in personal and spiritual growth through artistic practice and team work.

### Modalities, materials and expressive techniques

The expressive laboratory focuses on the elaboration of a macro manifesto to be created on a large recycled cardboard or canvas that can have the dimensions of about  $2 \times 4$  meters up to  $3 \times 5$  meters. The work will be developed inspired by the text of the Canticle of the Creatures; so that it can then be used as a poster / awareness-rasing banner. Other visuals elements



inspired by the theme of creation will be images of animals and natural elements. The production of complementary natural elements can be facilitated for those who have no particular expressive skills or disabilities by using molds and transfers.

Materials are cheap acrylics and tempera paint, natural pigments and / or vinyl resins. Eventually it will also be possible to use collages of recycled paper with in the theme. The same workshop development will also have a performative value and the action itself can be documented to become an integral part of the exhibition / dissemination and awareness-raising action. The global project Universal love and and related topics such as the awareness for the preservation of the environment are linked together by the will of spreading the word of Jesus. The aspect that characterizes the workshops in general is also that of giving the chance to participants to present their work on the final exhibition and let them enjoy both gratification and contact with the general public that comes from this meditative expressive path. The method is that to combine technical and expressive side of the team-work with reflections sharing; in order to emphasize the relational aspect and the openness to the other (with reference to empathic development, inspired by the philosophy of spiritual empathy by Edith Stein).

#### **Production period**

Approximate period: summer 2020, around mid-July.

It can be realized either with a longer route, for example with a duration of about a week, or with shorter session, but perhaps even more engaging, like a full-immersion weekend. Reflective and awareness-raising steps can also have a variable duration according the whole program, also depending on the type of interaction, age and characteristics of the group of partecipants.

#### Number of participants and hourly scan

Generally the groups that work with cooperative learning includes a variable number from 6-8 people to a maximum of 12-15 (a high number however involves a greater number of tutors and collaborations in the management of the laboratory).

The various steps may have different moments-work scans of two to three hours each. Even the convivial and inauguration / finissage moments and material preparation become an integral part of the growth and gratification process of the participating group and of the welcoming community.



## Interaction and spaces / laboratory

The project can be realized in a space of variable size also depending on number of participants; it can also take place in an itinerant way, involving various spaces, from a workshop / production space as a place of departure to an exhibition gallery or evenpubblic space, with a greater performative and extemporaneous value in the development of the work itself. For example, the final production-processing that will take place in the space / room of the Franciscan parish, could become an itinerant dissemination project, involving other parishes and facilities in Tokyo.

Blessings

Paolo Apolloni

Project promoted and curated by Paolo Apolloni
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