

# EURASIA. Dissolvenze geografiche dell'arte

## *Geographic cross-overs in art*

MART - Museum of modern and contemporary art, Rovereto (Tn)

*giugno - novembre 2008*

*progetto e curatela generale*

Achille Bonito Oliva

*con la collaborazione di:*

Lorenzo Benedetti

Iara Boubnova

Cecilia Casorati

Hu Fang

Christiane Rekade

Julia Trolp

artisti:

Lida Abdul, Mark Bain, Nina Beier, Joseph Beuys, Ursula Biemann, Alighiero Boetti, Luchezar Boyadjev, Stefano Cagol, Mircea Cantor, andrea caretto / raffaella spagna, Beatrice Catanzaro, Heman Chong, Cao Fei, Vadim Fishkin, Christian Frosi, Silvia Giambrone, Alban Hajdinaj, Koo Jeong-a, Anant Joshi, Gulnara Kasmaljeva e Muratbek Djumaliev, Terence Koh, Cristina Lucas, Mindaugas Lukosaitis, Sirous Namazi, Timo Nasser, Alessandro Nassiri Tabibzadeh, Elena Nemkova, Vladimir Nikolic, Adrian Paci, Dan Perjovschi, Mandla Reuter, Luigi Rizzo, Kirstine Roepstorff, Aidan Salakhova, Fernando, Sánchez Castello, Bojan Sarcevic, Hans Schabus, Chiharu Shiota, Carola Spadoni, Kuang-Yu Tsui, Hema Upadhyay, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Eva-Maria Wilde, Jun Yang, Haegue Yang, Yangjiang Group, Zheng Guogu, Cheng Zaiyan, Sun Qinglin, Vadim Zakharov, Darius Ziura.



Arising from an idea by Achille Bonito Oliva, the "Eurasia" exhibition is curated by Bonito Oliva himself, with a team of international curators, formed of Lorenzo Benedetti, Iara Boubnova, Cecilia Casorati, Hu Fang, Christiane Rekade and Julia Trolp.

The title of the exhibition is borrowed from the name given by Joseph Beuys to a series of performances executed between 1966 and 1968, represented in the exhibition by the video of Eurasienstab, 1967, realised on 9th February 1968 at the Wide White Space in Antwerp.

According to Beuys, Eurasia is a geographic vision and, at the same time, an anthropological expression of a new, complex artistic identity that is no longer territorial and self-sufficient, but aimed at the world and man. In 1967, the German artist founded the fictitious state of Eurasia with a Manifesto. This was an open territory without physical or dogmatic borders: the geographic representation of a utopia, a fusion of Western realism and Oriental mysticism, the venue for a totality as yet not dispersed.

The "Eurasia. Geographic cross-overs in art" exhibition refers to some fundamental arguments in Beuys' work – multiculturalism and the aspiration towards a total art, the aptitude for going beyond limits, and the "amplified concept of art" – and highlights the evidence of this in the work of artists of the young generation.

The exhibition traces an original path through the artistic landscape of the whole Eurasian territory and identifies viewpoints and projects reacting to the aestheticisation of everyday life and the abuse of reality, proposing a linguistic complexity summarising different expressions



## SATIVA

L'installazione presentata al Mart per la mostra *Eurasia, dissolvenze geografiche nell'arte*, è composta dai tre elementi:  
*Cerealia - Hordeumscape\_Val di Susa* (2008); *Sedute* (2008); *Serra rovesciata* (2008)

*Hordeumscape\_Val di Susa* è un paesaggio realizzato in fibra di erba d'orzo e riproduce, come una pelle, la superficie del territorio della Val di Susa (Piemonte, Italia), suddivisa nei tratti Bassa, Media e Alta Valle, caratterizzati da condizioni socio-politico-economiche diverse. Per alcuni mesi, a partire dall'inizio del 2008, i due artisti hanno trasformato il proprio studio-abitazione in luogo di coltivazione di orzo (*Hordeum vulgare*): ogni superficie orizzontale disponibile, ricoperta di terra e semi di orzo, ha prodotto nel tempo dense coltri erbose. I prati d'orzo sono stati progressivamente mietuti ed in seguito spremuti, ottenendo un denso succo verde consumato come bevanda dai due artisti. Il succo d'erba di cereali (grano, orzo...) è definito "superfood"; esso contiene infatti tutti gli aminoacidi essenziali necessari alla vita umana, nonché una grande quantità di clorofilla e vitamine, elementi >

che hanno avviato una progressiva depurazione del sangue della coppia di artisti durante i mesi di realizzazione del progetto. La fibra utilizzata per la costruzione dell'*Hordeumscape\_Val di Susa* è lo scarto di questo processo di lavorazione e costituisce la controparte tangibile del processo di trasformazione organica (chimico-fisica) della qualità del sangue e del corpo dei due autori. Le spoglie di questo paesaggio ricostruito a memoria - simili alle feci di un erbivoro che si nutre unicamente brucando erba - raccontano silenziosamente le vicende di un territorio sottoposto a forti tensioni sociali a causa degli interessi divergenti tra popolazione e istituzioni, un luogo per il quale ogni scelta e decisione futura non dovrebbero che ripartire da un profondo rinnovamento individuale e collettivo.

Il paesaggio in fibra d'erba d'orzo è affiancato da altri due elementi che evocano diversi livelli di relazione con il territorio: delle sedute in terra cruda e paglia, sulle quali il pubblico è invitato a sedersi, ed una stampa fotografica che ritrae una serra agricola a tunnel capovolta in una cava di terra argillosa per la produzione di mattoni.



An aerial photograph of a valley landscape, likely the Val di Susa in Piedmont, Italy. The terrain is hilly and covered in green vegetation. A road winds through the valley, and a small town labeled 'Susa' is visible. The image is overlaid with text and other elements.

## SATIVA

The installation presented at the Mart for the Eurasia exhibition comprises three elements:

*Cerealia - Hordeumscape\_ Susa Valley* (2008); *Sedute* ('Seats' - 2008); *Serra rovesciata* ('Inverted greenhouse' - 2008)

*Hordeumscape\_Val di Susa* is a landscape made from barley grass fibre and reproduces the surface of the Val di Susa region (in Piedmont, Italy) like a skin. The valley is divided into Lower, Mid and Upper Valley, each characterised by different social, political and economic conditions. For a few months, starting at the beginning of 2008, the two artists transformed their studio-home into a place in which to cultivate barley (*Hordeum vulgare*): every available horizontal space was covered with soil and barley seed, and in time produced a dense grassy covering. The barley 'fields' were progressively harvested and subsequently crushed, producing a dense green juice consumed as a beverage by the two artists. The grass juice of the cereals (wheat, barley...) is defined "superfood", indeed, it contains all the amino acids essential for human life,

together with a large quantity of chlorophyll and vitamins, elements that progressively purified the blood of the two artists during the months in which the project was under way. The fibre used for the construction of the *Hordeumscape\_Susa Valley* is the waste from this process and constitutes the tangible counterpart to the organic (chemical and physical) transformation of the quality of the blood and bodies of the two artists. The remains of this landscape rebuilt in memory – similar to the faeces of a herbivore that grazes solely on grass – silently recount the events of a territory undergoing strong social tensions because of divergent interests between the inhabitants and the authorities, a place for which every choice and future decision should be deferred until a profound individual and collective renewal.

The barley grass landscape is flanked by two other elements evoking different levels of relationship with the territory: seats of earth and straw, on which the public is invited to sit, and a photographic print showing an agricultural tunnel-shaped greenhouse overturned in a clay quarry used for the production of bricks.

SEMINA > COLTIVAZIONE > CRESCITA > MIETITURA > SPREMITURA > CONSUMO ALIMENTARE > NUTRIMENTO > SCARTO > *HORDEUMSCAPE*



SEEDING > CULTIVATION > GROWTH > HARVEST > PRESSING > CONSUMPTION AS FOOD > NUTRITION > WASTE > *HORDEUMSCAPE*



Small white label with illegible text, likely an artist or title label for the photograph.





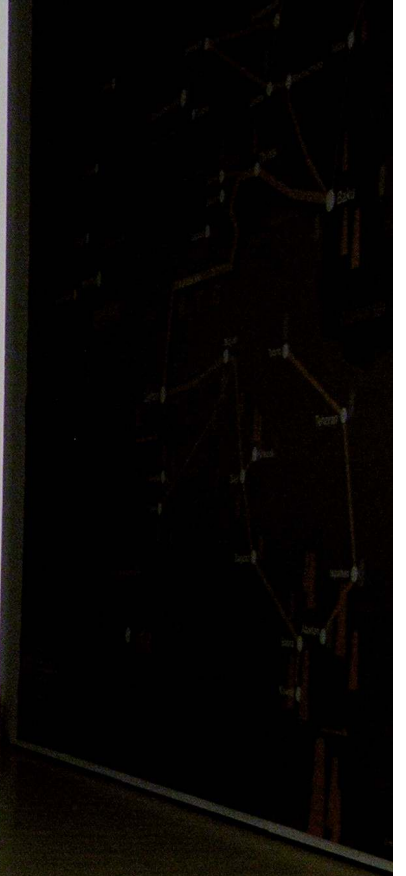
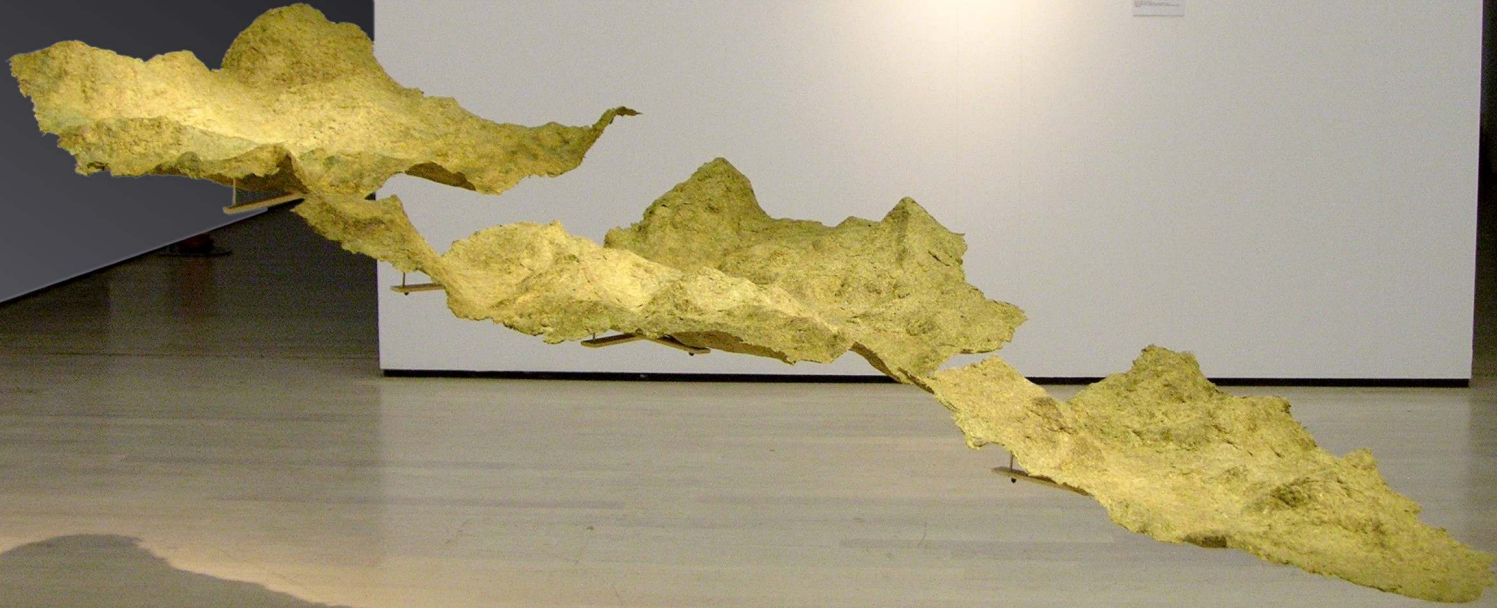
Serra rovesciata, 2008  
serra agricola a tunnel in ferro; cava di argilla della fornace di Cambiano

*Inverted greenhouse, 2008*  
*iron agricultural greenhouse; clay quarry at the Cambiano furnace*





Small white text label below the photograph.











Sedute, 2008 / *Seats, 2008*

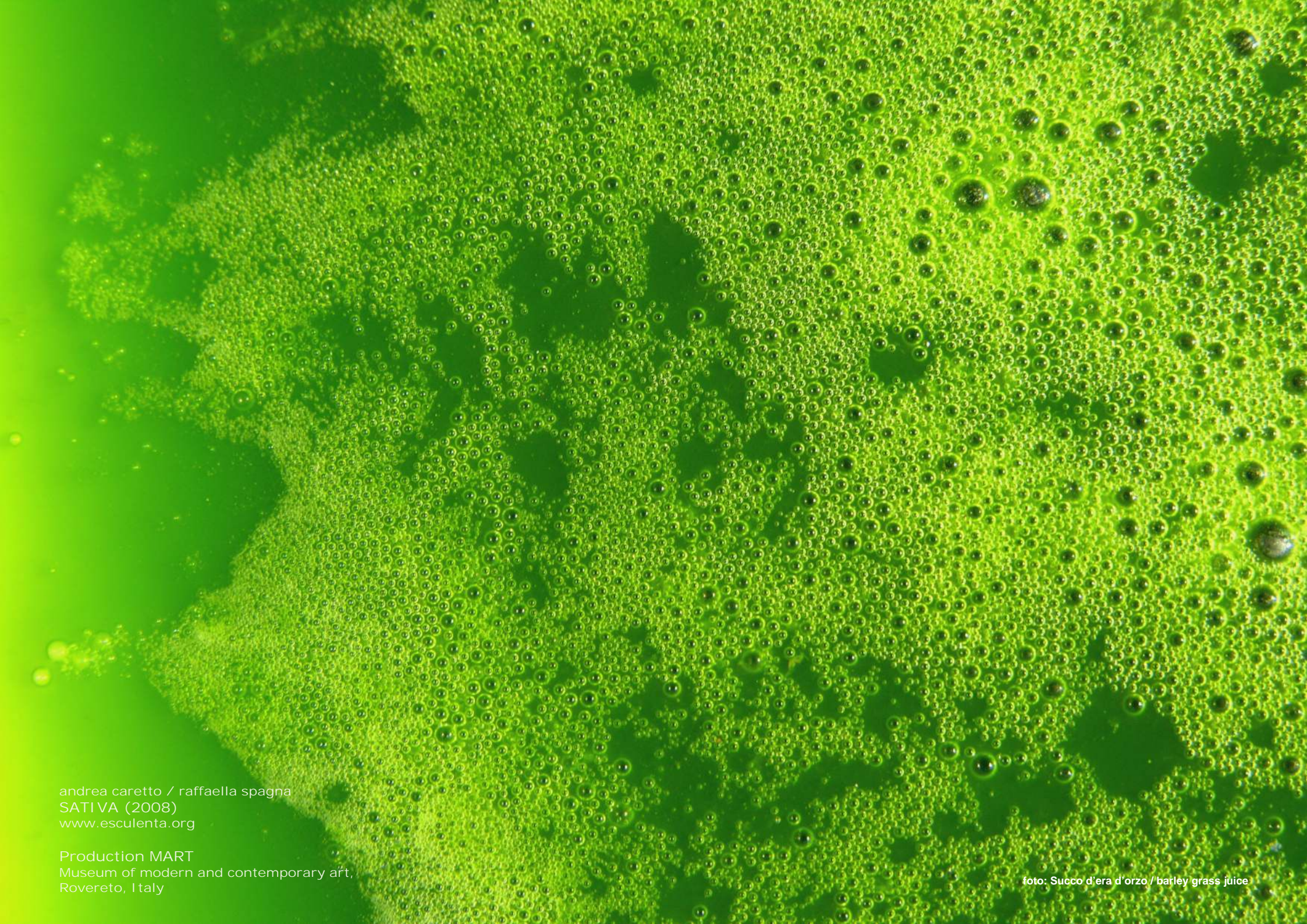
blocchi di terra cruda e paglia / *clay and straw bricks*

Cerealia – *Hordeumscape\_Val di Susa, 2008* / *Cerealia Hordeumscape\_Susa Valley, 2008*

Fibra di erba d'orzo, residuo del consumo alimentare di 27,7 kg di succo di erba d'orzo (*Hordeum vulgare*) bevuto dagli artisti

*Barley grass fiber, residue from the alimentary consumption of 27,7 kg of barley (Hordeum vulgare) grass juice drunk by the artists*





andrea caretto / raffaella spagna  
SATIVA (2008)  
[www.esculenta.org](http://www.esculenta.org)

Production MART  
Museum of modern and contemporary art,  
Rovereto, Italy

foto: Succo d'era d'orzo / barley grass juice