

On Saturday, December 14, 2024, **SPAZIOC21** will present the exhibition “**ARIA & FUOCO**” at Palazzo Brami, located at Via Emilia San Pietro 21, Reggio Emilia. This collective exhibition features works created by five artists from three different nationalities: **EGS**, **Nuria Mora**, **2501**, **Andreco**, and **Aris**. These five artists are prominent figures in an avant-garde artistic movement and a vibrant metropolitan culture. A subtle red thread connects the inspirations of these five artists: their engagement with space, form, and material. Air and fire - two of the four elements from which ancient Greek philosophers derived their theories on the constitution of matter - have shaped the metal of Andreco and 2501, the glass paste of EGS, and the ceramics of Nuria and Aris, giving rise to sculptural bodies, solid elements, and works of high aesthetic value. All the projects transcend the two-dimensional format of the canvas, reintroducing a wealth of manual skills and applied arts into the artistic experience, combining the sensitivity of the spirit with the manipulation of matter. From this relationship between intellect and manuality, the objects on display are born, each also linked to the artisanal and manufacturing traditions cultivated over centuries in the regions where the works were produced.

In Finland, for example, a collective of young artisans has revived the ancient glass-making tradition concurrent with that of Murano, from which the mysterious and sinuous blown glass forms of **EGS** (Helsinki, 1974), one of the most promising artists in the Nordic scene, have emerged. In Spain, in Madrid - a city also renowned for its splendid urban ceramics created for the Royal Palace - **Nuria Mora** (Madrid, 1974) has developed prototypes for vases and architectural columns that were later produced in a factory in Vignola, in the Modena area. Or in Tuscany, the land of artisanal majolicas shaped and glazed by **Aris**, whose curvilinear volumes evoke a tradition that stretches back to the time of the Etruscans. However, glass and ceramics are not the only protagonists of the exhibition. Among the primary elements from which the works are derived are also alloys and metals - noble supports from which the environmental sculptures of **Andreco** (Rome, 1983) are created. These sculptures address the theme of water, its importance for the planet, and its decomposition, as well as the works of **2501**, which integrate refractory materials and metal castings to create innovative compositions and designs.

**SPAZIOC21** continues its residency program in Reggio Emilia, supporting the creative work of contemporary international artists with roots in the underground scene.

## BIO

### EGS (Helsinki, 1974)

EGS began his artistic career as a writer in the late 1980s. He has traveled across five continents and is renowned as one of the most prolific artists in the international urban art scene. Over more than thirty years of research - both in the studio and in urban spaces - he has emerged as a leading figure in the contemporary Finnish art scene. His painting style is unmistakable, characterized by its unique brushwork and use of color; it incorporates motifs from the folklore of urban subcultures he has encountered, rendering his work both anthropological and documentary. EGS is celebrated for his exploration of world maps, cultural identities, and their emergence in relation to social and political issues. He is also known for a project aimed at recovering a local tradition through blown glass sculptures. He has exhibited in numerous international galleries, particularly in Germany, Australia, and France, and his work is featured in the major museums of the Nordic countries. In 2017, he held a retrospective at the Kunsthalle in Helsinki, and in 2024, he presented a significant solo exhibition at the Didrichsen Art Museum.

### NURIA MORA (Madrid, 1974)

A prominent figure in the international female art scene, Nuria Mora is one of the few women worldwide who have explored unauthorized public art spaces, and she is certainly the most pioneering in Spain. She is cited in the publication “Beyond the Street,” published by Gestalten in 2005, as one of the 100 most influential artists in urban art. In Madrid, she studied Interior Architecture at the Polytechnic University and Fine Arts at the Complutense University. She began her artistic career in the late 1990s, focusing exclusively on unauthorized street interventions that articulate space, context, and form. Her aesthetic is derived from geometric abstraction and natural metamorphosis, transcending mere furtive interventions to communicate on a more universal level. She has exhibited in numerous commercial galleries since her debut at the Arco Fair in 2005 and is represented by galleries in Spain, Italy, Belgium, and Korea. Her work has been showcased in institutional contexts such as Tate Modern in London, the Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona, El Matadero in Madrid, Le Pilon in Niort, the Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation in Mallorca, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Johannesburg. In 2022, she presented a large-scale ceramics production at SPAZIOC21.

### **ANDRECO (Rome, 1978)**

Andreco is a visual artist who combines a scientific background—holding a doctorate in sustainability and resource management under various climatic conditions—with an artistic journey that investigates the relationships between urban space and natural landscape, as well as between humans and the environment. His reflection on environmental and social justice, along with the consequences of climate change, unfolds through projects that contribute to a single multidisciplinary inquiry, elaborated in a minimalist aesthetic, using a synthesis of symbolic and conceptual language, and a variety of representation techniques: from installations to performance, video to photography, murals to painting, and sculpture to public art projects. Andreco won the special prize at the “Talent Prize 2017” at the MACRO Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome, the international award for rural regeneration Jazzzi, and in 2019 he was selected as an artist for the Gran Tour d’Italie by the Ministry of Culture MIBAC and for the Italian Oscar for environmental communication related to climate change. He has collaborated with Shanghai University and the CNR in Rome on environmental issues, and his works have been exhibited at the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Milan Triennale, the Saatchi Gallery in London, the Centro per L’Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci in Prato, and the MACRO in Rome.

### **2501 (Milan, 1984)**

A visual artist with a background in cinema and video editing from Milan, he later earned a master’s degree in Audiovisual Communication at the Nuovo Bauhaus in Weimar, Germany. At the age of 20, he moved to São Paulo, where he lived for nearly a decade, teaching painting to children in the favelas. He is fascinated by emptiness, maps, urban architectural space, and social contradictions in post-capitalist society. He employs a wide range of expressive mediums, including painting, installation, sculpture, photography, and cinema to convey his artistic vision. For years, he has investigated, with the aid of a “machine,” the flow of time, cycles, recurrences, and their multifaceted interpretations; his work develops in an extremely eclectic formal sense, navigating between post-structuralism and post-situationism. His murals can be seen worldwide, from Milan to London, NYC, Miami, Los Angeles, São Paulo, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, Ulan Bator, and Kiev. He has participated in numerous public art festivals such as O.BRA, Living Walls, ALTrove, Art United Us, Artosphere Biennale, Walk&Talk, Wabash Arts Corridor, Outdoor, Mural, Traffic Design, and the Painted Desert Project, with his works exhibited in many museums and galleries across Europe, the United States, and South America.

### **ARIS (Viareggio, 1983)**

A self-taught artist, he began painting at a young age, in 1993, experimenting with writing on trains and walls. He developed a personal style of lettering, gradually moving away from it to incorporate surreal, liquid, and changing figures, which later transformed into overlays of silhouettes and shapes that he skillfully adapts to non-traditional public art spaces just as easily as he paints on paper and canvas. In his mural experimentation and studio work, he merges his stylistic personality with an essential color palette, ensuring spatiality in his works that often relate to three-dimensional surfaces. His recurring themes include lunar settings and forgotten worlds, where the journey and the need to explore become fundamental parts of an aesthetic exploration that has taken him from Italy to paint in Spain, Germany, Poland, and Russia. Aris’s art has been exhibited in numerous national and international galleries and has received recognition at the PAC in Milan and the Italian Cultural Institute in New York.

### **SPAZIOC21**

Via Emilia San Pietro 21 - 42121 Reggio Emilia

Public Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM - 1 PM and 3 PM - 6 PM

For information and appointments:

Sandra Varisco +39 347 4613074

info@spazioc21.com

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spazioc21.com  
egshelsinki.com  
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climateartproject.com



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