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Il progetto di

Ministero del Land  
e delle attività culturali  
e del turismo  
sostegno e programma  
per la creatività

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Press Release

Milan. May 28<sup>th</sup> 2018

**PALAZZO LITTA CULTURA PRESENTS MAPS - CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHIES. IN THE FOREFRONT ARE THE TERRITORIES AND BORDERS OF UKRAINE, IRAN, TURKEY AND USA/MEXICO**

Spanning four days of voyage across four regions, Palazzo Litta transforms into a geographical point for visual arts, photography, live music, film screenings, performances, concerts, DJ sets and talks.

**Palazzo Litta Cultura** - the project launched by the Lombardy Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism (MiBACT) and MoscaPartners alongside the support of the Municipality of Milan - hosts **Mappe**, a 4-day festival of immersion into the creativity of the territories currently taking the spotlight of worldwide political climate. The festival takes place from June 13 to June 16, 2018, with the press conference scheduled for **June 7th at 12:00pm**.

**Turkey, Ukraine, Iran, and USA/Mexico:** these are the regions where the enzymes of the contemporary resonate in the arts context, but also in the social and geopolitical ones; they are places where **current events**, **economic upheavals** and **social impulses** attract worldwide attention. They are places of *limen*, a term derived from Old slavonic and meaning *on the border*.

Following exhibitions that highlight Japan and Sub-Saharan Africa, **Mappe** is the third project by Palazzo Litta Cultura dedicated to the geography of contemporary creativity. One again, the approach is transversal and aims to present a rich program wherein various forms of arts are involved in a collaboration between a diverse set of cultural players from across Milan: **MIA Photo Fair Projects** with photography, ZEIT Association with visual arts and installation, **Ponderosa Music&Art** with music curation, **esterni** for the film festival, and **Threes Productions** for the DJ set.

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Curated by **MIA Photo Fair Projects**, the photography exhibition **Mappe** - held on the occasion of Milan Photo Week between 13 to 16 June with a preview from 7 to 10 June (free entrance) - offers a sociopolitical glimpse into the cultures of the four countries through the selection of works by artists **Manu Brabo**, **Alejandro Cartagena**, **Shadi Ghadirian** and **Servet Koçyiğit**.

### **Photography | Curated by MIA Photo Fair Projects**

As part of the program of events promoted by Milan Photo Week 2018, the photography exhibition **Mappe** curated by MIA Photo Fair Projects (with the preview from June 7 to 10 2018 and the opening between June 13 to 16) investigates the conditions and circumstances of the different countries through four artists: **Manu Brabo** for Ukraine, **Alejandro Cartagena** for USA/Mexico, **Shadi Ghadirian** for Iran and **Servet Koçyiğit** for Turkey.

**Alejandro Cartagena** exhibits **The Car Poolers**, featuring Mexican workers traveling to their precarious workplaces with much of their time spent on the back of South American pickups, out in the open, between equipment and tools - thus **denouncing the difficult working conditions** in a border area characterized by strong **social inequality**.

Since the late nineties, **Shadi Ghadirian** has been focusing his work on the female condition and his role in a predominantly male-dominated society. His works represent the post-revolutionary artists who passionately love their homeland but are also shaped by global intercultural exchange. The images on show constitute the series **Qajar**, **Unfocused**, **West by East** and **Miss Butterfly**, wherein the artist looks into the continuous tension **between tradition and modernity in Iranian society**.

Born in Turkey and currently based in the Netherlands, **Servet Koçyiğit** addresses the themes of mobility, statelessness, identity and belonging, presenting them in his 2016 series **My Heart is not made from stone**. His work reflects the fractures of his generation - those born under the third military coup in 1980 - where **a sense of rootlessness and awareness** are more evident than vulnerability and the precariousness of reality.

Spanish photojournalist **Manu Brabo** presents his reportage on the 2014 conflict in Ukraine, with Ukraine being a border space - constantly under

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dispute and conquer by powerful neighbors. Between the Annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation until the war, the artist discovers "a country of arrogant plains that force the visual constraints, of exuberant forests, people and ancient traditions, as intriguing as they are". **Beauty and tragedy** encounter one another explicitly in his works.

The photography exhibition **Mappe**, curated by **MIA Photo Fair Projects**, is organized in collaboration with **Raffaella De Chirico Contemporary Art** (Turin), **Officine dell'Immagine** (Milan) and **Podbielski Contemporary** (Milan).

Technical sponsor in the insurance of photography works: **BIG / CiaccioArte**.

As its name might suggest, the **Territori** section dedicates a single day of the festival to each territory: **Wednesday, June 13 for USA/Mexico, Thursday, June 14 for Ukraine, Friday, June 15 for Iran, and Saturday, June 16 for Turkey.**

Two complementary sections articulate the project and are in dialogue with one other: **Territori** in the Courtyard of Honor is dedicated to the shows and live events that take place from the afternoons until late evenings, while the **Confini** section of the Piano Nobile explores the margins, the spatial and the temporal limits through photography, audio-video installations, and talks.

Curated by **Maria Paola Zedda** and organized by ZEIT Association, the exhibition **Mappe. Sguardi sui confini**. in the **Confini** section focuses on the artistic activities of the four countries through a show dedicated to the criticality of borders and their representations in contemporary art.

**Halil Altindere's** Turkey and **Martin Kollar** and **Anna Zvyagintseva's** contemporary Ukraine - as well as a journey travelled across the Mexican border by **Daniel Monroy Cuevas** - are all brought forward by a Prologue by **Andreco**.

During the *aperitivos* between **7:00 pm and 8:30 pm** and at the closing of the evening, electronic music traces the territories of the USA/Mexico border, Ukraine, Iran and Turkey. **Threes Production's** sound sets out from the Mexican deserts, continues its journey into Eastern Europe, reaches Persian tradition and concludes at Middle Eastern folklore.

**esterni** and **Milano Film Festival** are inviting four independent figures to investigate the changing discourse of cinema across borders, geographies and social urgencies between works immersed in cultural landscapes and alien, eclectic escapes. Projections will be held everyday at 9:00 pm by **four spokespersons from independent film production** from the four countries: Ricardo Silva - 2014 winner of the Golden Leopard Nescens Prize in Locarno and the **International Feature Film Competition at Milano Film Festival** representing the USA/Mexico border, Kyrlo Marikutsa - director and co-founder of the **Kyiv International Short Film**

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**Festival** for Ukraine, **Arash Abbasi** - director of the **Tehran International Short Film Festival** for Iran, and **Serdar Kökçeoğlu** - film critic and curator of the section short films for the **International Istanbul Film Festival** for Turkey.

Curated by **Ponderosa Music&Art**, the music program involves various international artists: Giant Sand - ambassadors of *desert rock* - hailing from the Arizonian desert, Ukrainian group and innovators of folk tradition **DakhaBrakha**, Persian classical music ensemble **Chemirani Trio** and Turkish musician **Mercan Dede** live with the **Istanbul Quartet**.

The press conference is scheduled for Thursday, June 7 at 12:00 pm accompanied with the preview of the photography exhibition. The opening of **Mappe** will take place on Wednesday, June 13 at 11:00 am.

## **TERRITORI | The Great Courtyard**

### **Music | Curation by Ponderosa Music&Art**

Palazzo Litta Cultura hosts live nights with international performers boasting a selection curated by **Ponderosa Music&Art** every night starting at 10:00 pm throughout the duration of the festival.

Unpredictable and experimental, anticipating trends and sounds, **Giant Sand** (in concert on June 13 at 10:00 pm) encompass more than twenty years of alternative rock, re-reading the roots and traditions of American music with an unconventional, visionary approach; strictly lo-fi. Along with Thin White Rope, they are the forerunners of *desert rock*, combining *post-punk* with the arid atmospheres of the frontier.

**On June 14 at 10 PM**, drones, beats, crimson beads, and towering black wool hats will make the striking backdrop for an unexpected reinterpretation of Eastern European *roots*. **DakhaBrakha** brings ethnic chaos to the stage as though an essential stylistic code of the Ukrainian soul. **Folk melodies with rare asymmetry are played with a staggering amount of instruments** from Indian, Arabic, African, Russian and Australian musical traditions, intertwining, transforming without rest - giving life to a **destabilizing show** that drags the very concept of *world music* to its extremes. DakhaBrakha's originality and freshness has surprised crowds at festivals across five continents.

**Chemirani Trio** is an ensemble founded in 1988 by **Djamchid Chemirani**

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master of *zarb*, the traditional Persian drum (perhaps the oldest percussion instrument in the Middle East) - along with his sons. The Trio play stories and poems of a forgotten Persian magic, demonstrating the **infinite possibilities of Iranian percussion**, in Palazzo Litta's Courtyard of Honor on **Friday, June 15th at 10:00 pm**.

**On Saturday, June 16 at 10:00 pm** Turkish musician **Mercan Dede**, in collaboration with **The Istanbul Quartet**, perform in a project that fuses East and West, tradition and innovation through music and visual arts. Divided into two parts, the exhibition will alternate between meditation and acoustic sounds, making room for energized, electronic sounds.

**After midnight**, the evening carries on with a multifaceted DJ set by **Mercan Dede** between *electro* experimentation and oriental melodies, followed with a solo cello piece by **Redi Hasa**, the talented cellist who plays between **mono-instrumental polyphonies and folk overtones**, to a daring modernization of tradition.

### **Cinema / Curated by esterni**

With the aim of tracing new routes in the mapping of contemporary cinematography, **esterni** and **Milano Film Festival** invite four international spokespersons from independent film production to curate *Mappe* in the selection of the most significant short films of contemporary local production through animation, documentary, fiction and experimental cinema, giving voice to emerging directors in new genres and visually exploring the territories.

On Wednesday, June 13th at 9:00 pm, Mexican film director Ricardo Silva presents the world premiere of **M/S: My Soul**, a montage film curated by Ricardo Silva with previously unreleased material from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, an institution dedicated to the scientific circulation of studies focused on the regional phenomena of the USA-Mexico border. **Languages mix on multiple temporal levels** where the present and the past merge, generating disorientation for the viewer.

Ukraine is represented on Thursday, June 14th at 9:00 pm by the most important short film festival in Ukraine - **Kyiv International Short Film Festival (KISFF)** - through a series of shorts. The selection is curated by director and co-founder **Kyrylo Marikutsa** and reflects Ukrainian film tradition all the while expressing the potential of the new generation of regional film directors.

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The Iranian selection will be presented on **Friday, June 15th at 9:00 pm** curated by **Arash Abbasi**, playwright, theatre director and Deputy Director of the **Tehran International Short Film Festival**, one of the first film festivals in the Middle East - celebrating 35 years this year. The selection of short films investigates the contemporary Iranian film environment, alternating between tradition and innovation.

The approach to the selection of films for Turkey - curated by **Serdar Kökçeoğlu** from the **International Istanbul Film Festival** and member of **Turkish Film Critics Association (SİYAD)**, looks into the humorous aspects of tradition on the country, which have managed to remain intact during the most difficult periods in its political history. The selection will be presented on **Saturday, June 16 at 9:00 pm**.

The curators representing Turkey, Ukraine, Iran and the border of Mexico will be introducing the projections everyday, sharing with Milan the cinematographic situation in their own countries **in open dialogue** with the public, who now has free access a new geography of cinema.

The film festival is presented thanks to the support of **Fondazione Cariplo**.

## **CONFINI | Piano Nobile**

### **Visual Arts and Installation | Curated by ZEIT**

In the exhibition, **Mappe. Sguardi sui confini**. - curated by **Maria Paola Zedda** and organized by **ZEIT Association** - the artists look into borders, crossings, routes and barriers, rewriting the limits of their countries as evidence of the violence and drama of our age.

The exhibition spreads across four rooms - one for each geographical territory - opened by a Prologue where the theme of the border and its surmount is presented in an iconic approach by the works and artists.

The Prologue of the show is entrusted to **Andreco** - an artist with a background in environmental sustainability who investigates the union of arts and sciences in the relationship between urban space and natural landscapes. Andreco presents the works **Between Nations** - winner of the **Talent Prize 2017 at Terzo Pilastro Foundation** - and **One and Only**, a video that documents the performances and installation on the Italy-Austria border.

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Amongst the most representative artists of modern Turkey, **Halil Altindere** explores political, cultural and social codes, representing **marginalization and resistance to oppressive systems**. State and Nation are distorted through the use of everyday objects, whereas subcultures and ordinary/extraordinary situations are addressed with an ironic - but also political - approach.

**Ukraine** is presented by **Martin Kollar** and **Anna Zvyagintseva's** complementary outlook, reflecting on the country's repressive structures: Martin Kollar uses photography to investigate the **system of Ukrainian prisons**, while Anna Zvyagintseva restores the inconsistencies between freedom and confinement and **the dichotomy between oppression and the absence of law** in Ukraine.

Recent works from the Persian art scene will be dedicated to the show's territory of **Iran**, with **special attention to young artists and innovative visual mediums** as well as close attention to the *underground* - a scene which reflects - often with difficulty - on the context of reality.

## EVENTS PROGRAM

### **MAPPE. GEOGRAPHIES OF THE CONTEMPORARY.**

#### **Thursday, June 7 2018**

12:00 pm | Press Conference *Mappe*  
with a preview of the photography exhibition

#### **Wednesday, June 13 2018**

11:00 am | *Mappe* Opening | *by invite*

#### **Festival | Mappe**

**June 13 - 16, 2018**

#### **Photography Exhibition Preview**

**June 7 - 10, 2018**

Opening hours: 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

#### **Wednesday June 13 | USA/Mexico**

5:00 pm - 1:00 am **Confini** | *exhibition*

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | *talk*

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm | *DJ set*

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9:00 pm - 10:00 pm **M/S: My Soul**, montage film curated by **Ricardo Silva** with an introduction | *film*  
10:00 pm - 11:30 pm **Giant Sand** | *concert*  
11:30 pm - 1:00 am *DJ set*

#### Thursday June 14 | Ukraine

5:00 pm - 1:00 am **Confini** | *exhibition*  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | *talk*  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm | *DJ set*  
9:00 pm - 10:00 pm | Selection of short films curated by **Kyrylo Marikutsa** from **Kyiv International Short Film Festival** with an introduction | *film*  
10:00 pm - 11:30 pm **Dakha Brakha** | *concert*  
10:30 pm - 1:00 am *DJ set*

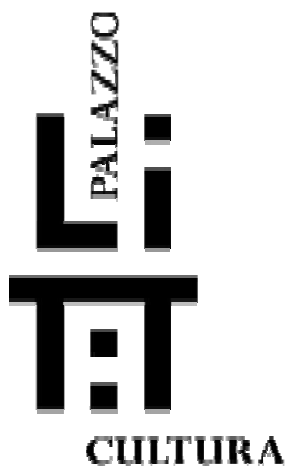
#### Friday June 15 | Iran

5:00 pm - 1:00 am **Confini** | *exhibition*  
7:00 pm - 20:00 *talk*  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm *DJ set*  
9:00 pm - 10:00 pm Selection of short films curated by **Arash Abbasi** from **Tehran International Short Film Festival** with an introduction | *film*  
10:00 pm - 11:30 pm **Chemirani Trio** | *concert*  
11:30 pm - 1:00 am *DJ set*

#### Saturday June 16 | Turkey

11:00 am - 2:00 am **Confini** | *exhibition*  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | *talk*  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm | *DJ set*  
9:00 pm - 10:00 pm Selection of short films curated by **Serdar Kökçeoğlu** from the **International Istanbul Film Festival** with an introduction | *film*  
10:00 pm - 11:30 pm **Mercan Dede Istanbul Quartet** | *concert*  
11:30 pm - 1:30 am **Mercan Dede** | *DJ set*  
1:30 am - 2:00 am **Redi Hasa** | *cello concert*

**Tickets are available online on TicketOne and Malticket, with presales.**



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#### Admission:

One-day ticket: 12€

4-day Festival Carnet: 40€

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