

# The Platform of “Be-diversity” starts at MUSE

**The temporary exhibition of contemporary art "Be-diversity. A mental attitude on differences, beyond biodiversity" at MUSE Science Museum of Trento until September 30 curated by Stefano Cagol presents a series of meetings open to the public with important guests: the first guest on Wednesday August 19 at 18.00 is Aboulkheir Breigheche, Imam of Trentino South Tyrol.**

The opportunity to face the issues of Expo at Muse through the unexpected visionary point of view of the artworks of the project "Be-diversity" will be amplified starting from 19 August by a series of informal dialogues with local and international guests that are not limited within the boundaries of art and science, but range and take the cue from an idea of synergy between the different knowledge, from the belief that "The paths of knowledge that lead to awareness and then action, are not isolated trails", as the director of MUSE, Michele Lanzinger, says.

First guest is **Aboulkheir Breigheche**, Imam of the Islamic Community of Trentino South Tyrol and President of the Council of Trustees of the Association of Italian Islamic Imams, on Wednesday, August 19 in the parlor inside the exhibition "Be-diversity" on the second floor of MUSE. Natural starting point for his reflection will be in particular one of the seven works exhibited, realized by the Lebanese-born artist Khaled Ramadan. It speaks, through images and words, about the Muslim Cham minority in Cambodia, that has lived since last three generations on boats along the Mekong River due to the persecution by the Khmer Rouge. The work is presented as world premiere at Muse and offers an opportunity to reflect - not only - on the politics that influences the habits related even to water and land, and climate change that influences rivers life and populations.

The meeting will start at 18, spectators of the meeting are entitled to free admission to the exhibition and a guided tour will follow, MUSE closes at 21 on Wednesday.

The following meetings will be on Wednesday, August 26 with **Marianne Franklin**, Professor of Global Media and Politics at Goldsmiths University of London, and the writer and art critic **Camilla Boemio**, while Saturday, September 19 will be the turn of **Alessandro Castiglioni**, born in 1984, art historian, curator and head of special projects of education at the Museum MAGA Gallarate, and the Peruvian-born artist **Jota Castro**.

On September 25, the **European Researchers' Night**, we will celebrate the finissage of the exhibition with the harvest and sharing of "illegal" potatoes grown by the artist **Åsa Sonjasdotter** in the garden of MUSE: five European ancient qualities of potato excluded from the EU register and market, and therefore in the process of disappearing that exceptionally could be eaten by the public.

The exhibition will close on September 30, but the experience of the platform will be expanded even further through a series of contributions collected digitally, as words, images, sounds, that will be presented in progress within the show and online, while a selection of the results will be published on a booklet. The contributors will be, among others, **Thale Fastvold** (artist, art critic, curator, NO), **Imma Prieto** (curator, ES), **Chiara Massini** (art critic, IT), **Steven Emmanuel** (artist, UK/DE), **Alex Rutner** (artist, editor, AT), **Fabio Cavallucci** (director Museo Pecci, IT), **Jim Mooney** (curator, UK), **Ugo Morelli** (writer, IT), **Blanca de la Torre** (curator, MX/ES), **Panos Papadopoulos** (artist, GR).

#### **Schedule of meetings of the Platform "Be-diversity":**

Wednesday, August 19 18.00: Aboukheir Breigheche

Wednesday, August 26 18.00: Marianne Franklin, Camilla Boemio

Saturday, September 19 17:00: Alessandro Castiglioni, Jota Castro

Free entry to the meetings, followed by free guided tour of the exhibition.

The meetings will be held in Italian, while on August 26 the dialogue will be held partly in Italian and partly in English.

#### **Finissage:**

Friday, September 25, the European Night of Researchers

starting at 18.00: harvesting, cooking and sharing with the public the "illegal" potatoes by the artist Asa Sonjasdotter grown in the garden of MUSE

#### **[www2.muse.it/be-diversity](http://www2.muse.it/be-diversity)**

MUSE - Museo delle Scienze - Corso del Lavoro e della Scienza, 3 - 38123 Trento

t. 0461 270311

[www.muse.it](http://www.muse.it)

## **Be-diversity**

### **A mental attitude on differences, beyond biodiversity**

**Wim Delvoye (BE), Christian Jankowski (DE), Giancarlo Norese (IT), Khaled Ramadan (LBN), Oliver Ressler (AT), Avelino Sala (ES), Åsa Sonjasdotter (SE)**

**In the year of Expo Milano 2015, from July 18 to September 30, an exhibition and a platform proposed by Stefano Cagol transform MUSE, the Science Museum of Trento, in a forum open to the most different influences: Art and science are intertwined to stimulate a mental attitude to differences beyond biodiversity.**

*“To safeguard the future of the planet and the right of future generations everywhere to live healthy and fulfilling lives. This is the great development challenge of the 21st century. Understanding the links between environmental sustainability and equity is critical if we are to expand human freedoms for current and future generations.”* This is the incipit of **the Milan Charter**, the document made in the months leading to Expo, which lists the rights and obligations that citizens can subscribe to look for solving the problem of food and malnutrition in some parts of the world. A collective manifesto - therefore - which seeks to sensitize people on the main topic of Expo, *Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*. Even the Muse of Trento embraces this challenge, moving, in the months of Expo Milano 2015, among several layers of investigation, science, art, technology, with attention to the interweaving between the local and global elements of the debate.

The artist's contribution by **Stefano Cagol**, for the first time working as curator, fits into these reflections and comes into the spaces of MUSE for put in contact a corpus of works by established international artists, selected for their skill to face topics such as biodiversity, sustainability, ecology, food and the future of the planet.

**Be-diversity**, a neologism coined by Cagol himself during an intervention at Goldsmiths University of London last year, is the title of the exhibition that opens **on Saturday, July 18** and will be on view on the second floor of the Museum **until September 30**. *“Be-diversity is an iconic term – Stefano Cagol says - which replaces the word bio in biodiversity with 'be', being, opening to multiple readings. In the project I have chosen to present main works of artists I met on my path. Easy to read, they are metaphorical, and with minimal shifts in meaning open to more in-depth insights into the present and the future, composing a wide mosaic. Art is not an end in itself, but is able to make a contribution to the current debate.”*

Among the exhibited artworks, some gems such as the film *Leave it in the ground* (2013) by **Oliver Ressler**, which proposes a critical approach to ecology focusing on the influence of the exploitation of the sea and oil deposits on fishing. The work, premiered in Italy in its version subtitled in Italian, has been showed this year also at the Tromso International Film Festival (Norway). On water focuses also the video (2015) by Lebanese artist **Khaled Ramadan**, former co-curator of Manifesta 8, which reflects the behaviour of cultural communities related to nature and, therefore, affected by its changes, as Cambodian fishermen belonging to the Cham Muslim minority. Human nature and the laws of man affecting biodiversity: the exploration of *The Order of Potatoes* by **Åsa Sonjasdotter** moves in this sphere. The artist, who won the award COAL for environmental art in 2014, has always focused on issues such as diversity, power, knowledge. In large lawn that embraces the MUSE and the sixteenth century Palazzo delle Albere are growing, under the eyes of the public visiting the museum, special potato varieties restricted in the European Union for the commercial use. The point of view by **Avelino Sala** instills in visitors a

precise question: does culture make you eat? In the video the artist shows a pack of dogs that literally eat the word CULTURE (culture). In this dialogue between artworks, there is **Giancarlo Norese's** installation, as simple as enigmatic. In the ironic video *The Hunt* by **Christian Jankowski**, however, the artist is shot while is procuring food with a bow and arrow in a supermarket, while the device realized by **Wim Delvoye** and called Cloaca recreates with extreme fidelity the process of a digestive apparatus.

*"The paths of knowledge - the director of MUSE, Michele Lanzinger, says - that lead to awareness and then to action, are not trails that reach this or that result in an isolated way. There isn't the way of biochemistry, of mathematics, of nature that could lead to a solution. If the scientific method is the tool that allows us to understand and predict the processes of the real world, the choice of a model to be pursued has to be made not only using definitions or formulas. The exercise of criticism, the recognition of a moral horizon, the definition of a desirable scenario, this is not due only to the application of algorithms.*

*The idea of separated scientific culture and humanistic culture is a legacy to be overcome in favour of a dialogue of interbreeding between facts and projects, including desire and plausibility. So hosting artistic sensibility in a science museum is an experiment devoted to enable all paths of knowledge that culture knows how to produce."*

Stefano Cagol's project will be developed through an exhibition and an online platform imagined as a virtual meeting place between researchers, curators, politicians, philosophers to reflect and express their opinion on the issues raised by the project. For the duration of the exhibition there will be public meetings to stimulate debate around the proposed works; the ideas will be showed in progress inside the exhibition.

#### **Info**

[www.muse.it](http://www.muse.it)

#### **In attachment**

Colophon

Artists' bio notes

## Colophon

### Be-diversity A mental attitude on differences, beyond biodiversity

**Curator**

Stefano Cagol

**General supervisor**

Michele Lanzinger

**Coordination of the exhibition design MUSE**

Patrizia Famà, Alessandra Tomasi, Manuela Gastainer

**Texts**

Stefano Cagol

**Research of scientific data**

Patrizia Famà

**Communication MUSE**

Loris Berardi, Chiara Rinaldi, Elisa Tessaro, Chiara Veronesi, Monika Vettori

**Graphic and exhibition design**

Stefano Cagol

**Administration MUSE**

Massimo Eder

**Botanist**

Renzo Vicentini

**Tecnology**

Franco Modena

**Artists:** Wim Delvoye (BE), Christian Jankowski (DE), Giancarlo Norese (IT), Khaled Ramadan (LBN), Oliver Ressler (AT), Avelino Sala (ES), Åsa Sonjasdotter (SE)

**Platform:** [www2.muse.it/be-diversity](http://www2.muse.it/be-diversity)

**Hashtag:** #MUSE\_Museum #be\_diversity

**From-to:** 18 luglio – 30 settembre 2015

**Location:** MUSE - Museo delle Scienze - Corso del Lavoro e della Scienza, 3 - 38123 Trento

**Opening times:** Thu-Fr: 10.00 - 18.00, Wed: 10.00 - 21.00, Sat-Sun: 10.00 - 19.00

**Info:** t. 0461 270311

**Web:** [www.muse.it](http://www.muse.it)