

at the edge of **CHAOS**

18.06.2020

## ***At The Edge of Chaos***

June 18-28th 2020, [manifatturatabacchi.com](http://manifatturatabacchi.com)

### **An online exhibition**

**curated by the Arts Management Master Course of IED - Istituto Europeo di Design di Firenze**

**in collaboration with Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi and Manifattura Tabacchi**

Artists: Baoyi Cao, Chen YongZhe, Claudia Vignale, Elisa del Taglia e Sara Sassi, Fan Qingduo, Gianmarco Rescigno, Isaac Michael Ybarra, Liu Xuan, Samuele Bartolini, Santiago Navarro, Teresa Bellandi, Yuan Libin, Zhang Manjie.

From June 18 to 28th 2020 Manifattura Tabacchi will host ***At the Edge of Chaos*** in its digital spaces ([manifatturatabacchi.com](http://manifatturatabacchi.com)), a **special online art exhibition** curated by the Arts Management Master Course of IED - Istituto Europeo di Design di Firenze, created in collaboration with Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi and Manifattura Tabacchi. The exhibition gathers together the artworks of **13 young international artists**, and it represents the conclusion of the project of Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi "Complex Systems", addressed to creatives and professionals of the art world, whose aim has been to develop **new artistic productions in relation to the exhibition *Tomás Saraceno. Aria*** (still ongoing at Palazzo Strozzi until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2020). The artworks have been selected from the students' submissions of some of the most prestigious art schools of Florence: Accademia di Belle Arti, California State University, Fondazione Studio Marangoni and LABA Libera Accademia di Belle Arti.

As it is the final project of the Arts Management Master Course of IED Firenze, the exhibition was originally intended to be held physically and locally in Florence inside the spaces of Manifattura Tabacchi. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the creative process of the exhibition has evolved into a new online format which allows the audience to live the experience in a whole new way: a virtual space that can be **explored on the website of Manifattura Tabacchi** ([www.manifatturatabacchi.com/live/at-the-edge-of-chaos](http://www.manifatturatabacchi.com/live/at-the-edge-of-chaos)), combined with two performances that will be live streamed on the Instagram page of the exhibition @at\_the\_edge\_of\_chaos. The current online format challenged the production of artworks to new extents, as perceptions and possible interactions shifted from what could normally have been done in a traditional physical space, to a virtual reality where images, textures and



MANIFATTURA  
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ACCADEMIA  
DI BELLE ARTI  
DI FIRENZE



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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS - FIRENZE



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sounds, when being enclosed in the screen, gather new meaning and give food for thought.

Inspired by the work of Tomás Saraceno, the artworks of this exhibition examine the collision between the complex systems of human beings and nature, sometimes resulting in irrevocable damage to the environment; the inter-societal interactions between humans both in reality and in the virtual, and the personal interaction between an individual and their own psyche. The title of the exhibition, *At the Edge of Chaos*, takes its cue from a statement by Andrea Ferrara, Cosmology Professor at Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, according to whom “*Complex systems are situated in between order and disorder, or at the edge of chaos*”. As the current situation of crisis shows, we are always living at the edge of chaos, grasping onto the strings of order.

## **EXHIBITION'S OPENING AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of June, at 12.00**

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of June at 12.00, the project will be presented live on the official Facebook pages of Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Manifattura Tabacchi and IED Firenze. With the participation of Arturo Galansino (General Director, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi), Igor Zanti (Director, IED Firenze), Michelangelo Giombini (Head of Product Development, Manifattura Tabacchi), Martino Margheri (Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi), Daria Filardo (Coordinator Master Arts Management, IED) and Erica Gatti (IED).

## **LIVE PERFORMANCES, through live streaming on the Instagram account @at the edge of chaos**

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of June, the time will be communicated: Liu Xuan, *A Tombstone which Is Dying*
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, at 18.30: Elisa Del Taglia e Sara Sassi, *Pollution*

### **Exhibition organizer: IED Arts Management Master Course**

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## **EXHIBITION'S PARTNERS:**

### **IED - ISTITUTO EUROPEO DI DESIGN**

Active since 1966, when the first school was opened in Milan, Istituto Europeo di Design has been expanding and operating in the disciplines of design, fashion, visual arts, management and communication, in different cities both in Italy and abroad. IED Firenze offers every year the Arts Management Master course, in which the first semester final project is the development and organization of a professional art exhibition. The students of the Master Course in Arts Management in IED Firenze are the curators, organizers and producers of *At the edge of chaos*. They were responsible for creating the statement of this exhibition, as well as choosing the artworks in collaboration with Palazzo Strozzi. The design, exhibition virtual layout, visual identity, and communication were also created by IED students.



### **Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi**

Masterpiece of Renaissance architecture in Florence and dynamic cultural centre of international importance, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi is a focal point of Italy's cultural scene: a platform that promotes a new idea of contemporaneity in Florence, to produce and experience art through a rich programme of exhibitions and cultural activities. Always experimenting with new opportunities and forms of public involvement, research in the field of education is central, through a rich public programme and an articulated offer of educational projects. The educational department of Palazzo Strozzi is responsible for the guidelines and has worked to build, together with the curatorial team, the shape of *At The Edge of Chaos*.

### **Manifattura Tabacchi**

Manifattura Tabacchi is an ex-industrial complex built in the 1930s, west of central Florence. Decommissioned since 2001, it is now involved in an ambitious urban regeneration project, which envisages creating a new district for the city animated by a centre for contemporary art and culture complementary to the historic centre, open to the territory and connected with the world. The interdisciplinary project dedicated to art, currently divided into Artist Residences, independent spaces, festivals and workshops, is the ideal framework for the collaboration with Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi. Manifattura Tabacchi hosts the exhibition *At The Edge of Chaos* in its digital spaces: [www.manifatturatabacchi.com](http://www.manifatturatabacchi.com)

### **Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze**

The Fine Arts Academy in Florence is one of the most prestigious and oldest schools of arts. Its history intertwined with "la Compagnia di San Luca" (1339), also known as the "Organization of the Painters", considered as the first nucleus from which the modern Academy originated (1784). The School was attended by some of the greatest figures in the history of art and it is now a place where cultures from all around the world can meet and share their interests. For this project the students of Decorazione and Pittura have developed artworks individually and collaborating in groups.

### **California State University International Programs - Firenze**

The CSU IP in Florence offers a rich and diverse curriculum with courses in Art History, Classics, Literature, Social Sciences (Political Science and History), Italian Language, Cultural Studies and Architecture. The CSU art students' study at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze and also work in the studios on campus under the guidance of Professor Marsha Steinberg, the CSU Art Coordinator. This spring 2020, due to the actual situation, the studio art students developed their artworks back in California working online with professor Steinberg.

### **Fondazione Studio Marangoni**

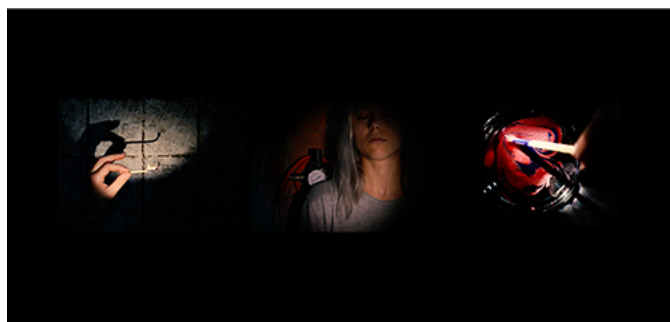
Fondazione Studio Marangoni is a centre dedicated to contemporary photography in Florence. FSM was founded in 1989 by the photographer Martino Marangoni with the aim of promoting art and the teaching of photography in Italy. The Triennial Course of "Photography and New Media" allows young photographers to confront each other at the highest levels both in the commercial and artistic fields, thanks to a deep work in the structuring and experimentation of the visual language. The third year students of the Triennial Course developed their individual artistic projects for this exhibition.

### **LABA**

Active since 2001, the Libera Accademia di Belle Arti is a school of art and painting, photography, fashion, graphic and design, which revolves around the key word of "experimentation". It is located in Florence but aims at going beyond its borders, focusing on innovation and on the relationship with the workplace. The young artists enrolled in Visual Arts and Painting have developed their works with the helpfulness of their professors.



Liu Xuan, *A Tombstone which Is Dying*



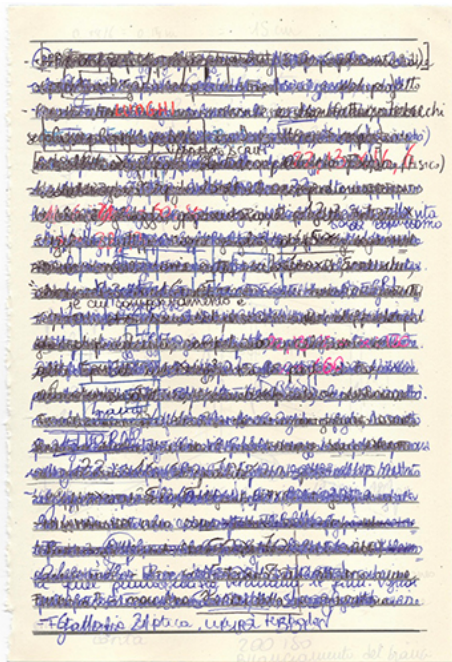
Teresa Bellandi, *the Edge of Chaos*



Fan Quingduo, *Oasis*



Isaac Michael Ybarra, *A New Road*



Samuele Bartolini, *Overlapping*