

PRESS RELEASE

Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi

An exhibition, a performance, an installation

Francesco Jodice

curated by **Ilaria Bonacossa** and **Annamaria Aimone**

Sponsors: Comune di Gavi, Città di Comune di Novi Ligure, Regione Piemonte

Opening Saturday, May 25th 2019

3.30 pm Forte di Gavi, Polo Museale del Piemonte – guided tour to the show

5.30 pm Fondazione La Raia – musical performance at the presence of the artist

*Novi Ligure, May 2019 - Fondazione La Raia – arte cultura territorio, the Polo Museale del Piemonte and Forte di Gavi present **Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi**, Francesco Jodice's new art project, curated by Fondazione La Raia's director Ilaria Bonacossa and Forte di Gavi's director Annamaria Aimone.*

The event is structured as an exhibition, a performance and a permanent installation, and confirms Fondazione La Raia's focus on new critical interpretations on the theme of the landscape's enhancement, focusing in this project on Gavi's specific landscape and history.

Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi is the offspring of a year long research by **Francesco Jodice** on Gavi's landscape, its culture and society. **Jodice** is an artist and a photographer whose works are presented in the collections of important international museum and has shown at several Biennials. He pushes his research transforming photography beyond pure representation and documentary, into a process where images and stories are activated in a dialogue that discloses the places' past and distinctive features.

For this exhibition Jodice photographed architectures, landscapes, monuments, hills and wine cellars, inspired by vernacular stories and the key figures of Gavi's and Novi Ligure's history. In his research the artist discovered the work by **Angelo Francesco Lavagnino** (Genoa 1909 - Gavi 1987), an important classical composer, one of the 'fathers' of Italian film soundtracks composition, who chose Gavi as his permanent residence. Lavagnino worked from the end of the fifties to the seventies on hundreds of original music scores for movies like *Othello* by Orson Welles besides numerous Italian B-movies: *Mambo*, *Ercole contro i tiranni di Babilonia*, *Maciste contro il vampiro* and many more, never leaving the Gavi.

Francesco Jodice's works – bas-reliefs obtained from the unexpected fusion of the artist's photos with details from the posters of movies whose sound tracks were composed by Lavagnino – are the result of the encounter between two worlds: the real one of the photographs and the imaginary one of the films. As a whole they transform Gavi in the new set of an imaginary movie crowded with cowboys, vampires, pirates, mythological creatures and enticing women. Jodice, through a series of low-fi collages, distinctly pop in their tone, transforms Gavi's castles, valleys, mountains and water falls into unforgettable dreamlike landscapes. Playing with kitsch, he sets up a series of cult characters in new settings, changing the context to make photography a contemporary multidisciplinary storytelling tool. The result are nine photographic-sculptures, tridimensional collages sprung from the conceptual union of landscapes and fantasy figures that mark a new development in the artists long reflection on the nature of images. Jodice articulates a new discourse on the interpenetration between the photograph as an object and the society where it is produced as a cultural device.

The project's title ironically recalls the fantastic images of the second post-war Italian movies, whose success can also be attributed to Lavagnino's work. ***Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi (The Black Corsair and Gavi's revenge)*** is structured as an **exhibition set up** for and with the Forte di Gavi Polo Museale del Piemonte, a **musical performance** centred on Jodice's interest in Lavagnino's compositions; this interest brought Jodice to collaborate with Conservatorio Niccolò Paganini in Genoa and the Novi Ligure "Romualdo Marengo" 45-element musical band. The project as a whole will remain at Azienda La Raia, Fondazione La Raia's headquarters, as a permanent installation. The band's performance will take place at the opening at La Raia, playing abstracts from *Gli specialisti* (1969, directed by Sergio Corbucci) and *La morte viene dal pianeta Aytin* (1967, directed by Antonio Margheriti) meandering through the wine landscape of Gavi. The score transcription was curated by Maestro Pietro Leveratto and directed by Niccolò Paganini Conservatory in Genoa.

"Francesco Jodice interpreted in a complex, deep and meaningful way Fondazione La Raia's mission, that is finding new critical readings of the landscape's transformations," declares **Giorgio Rossi Cairo**, President of Fondazione La Raia. "The production of *Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi* was an important occasion to collaborate with the Forte di Gavi and the municipalities of Novi Ligure and Gavi to highlight the importance of this area in the Piedmont cultural map. I would like to thank Francesco Berti Riboli, Clara and Massimo Mordiglia and Gallery Michela Rizzo for their precious help to make this project come true."

"Francesco Jodice surprised me for his ability to transform an analysis on the Gavi and Novi Ligure landscape in a wonderful adventure in the history of Italian cinema retracing Lavagnino's footsteps" says **Ilaria Bonacossa** artistic director of Fondazione La Raia. "The physicality of these tridimensional collages, the exhibition in the monumental spaces of Forte di Gavi and the performance of the band of Novi Ligure through La Raia's vineyards tell us about our physical relationship with images and

the places that they represent, in an era of physical dematerialization and digital reality. A heartfelt thankyou to the Piedmont superintendence, and to Antonella Parigi, Chief Councillor of Culture for Regione Piemonte.”

The opening will take place **May 25th at 3.30 pm** at Forte di Gavi starting with a guided tour by Ilaria Bonacossa at the presence of the artist. At 5.30 pm the Novi Ligure Band’s **musical performance** will start at Fondazione La Raia anticipated by a short presentation of the project. The exhibition will close on September 7th 2019 with the production of a **new site-specific installation** by Francesco Jodice that will be permanently open to the public at Fondazione La Raia. The whole project will be documented in an **artist book** dedicated to *Il Corsaro Nero e la vendetta del Gavi*, curated by Ilaria Bonacossa and Ginevra Doria, where Francesco Jodice’s photos, the performance’s images and critical texts will merge to describe this unique project.

Francesco Jodice explores in his artistic search the transforming social landscape of our time, with a particular focus on urban anthropological phenomena and the creation of new participatory processes. His projects are aimed at building a common ground between art and geopolitics. He teaches at the biennial program in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies and at the MA in Photography and Visual Design at NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan. He was among the founders of collectives Multiplicity and Zapruder. He has been in major group exhibitions such as Documenta, the Venice Biennial, the São Paulo Biennial, the ICP Triennial in New York, the second Yinchuan Biennial, and has shown his works at the Castello di Rivoli (Turin), the Tate Modern (London) and the Prado (Madrid). His main projects include *What We Want*, a photographic atlas surveying landscape as a projection of people desires; *The Secret Traces*, an urban experimental archive on shadowing; and *Citytellers*, a film trilogy about new forms of urbanization.

Ilaria Bonacossa, curator and critic, after working for eight years at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin, from 2012 to 2017 was the director of Museo di Villa Croce in Genoa, a municipal institution for contemporary art. Since December 2016 she has been the director of the international fair of contemporary art of Turin, Artissima. In 2013 she co-curated the Iceland Pavilion at the Venice Biennial; in 2007 she was a member of the jury for the Leone d’Oro awards at the 52nd Venice Art Biennial, and in 2013 she was a member of the jury of the Inamori Foundation Prize in Kyoto.

Fondazione La Raia - arte cultura territorio was founded in June 2013 with the objective of encouraging a critical reflection on the landscape in Italy and abroad, through contributions that range through multiple fields of research. The foundation develops artistic, cultural, educational and scientific activities, also with a focus on the specific knowledge of the Gavi area. Fondazione La Raia, directed by Ilaria Bonacossa, was founded by Giorgio Rossi Cairo and Irene Crocco, who conceived and curated project *Nel Paesaggio*, whose works and public debates set the direction of

the Foundation's search. To date, initiatives have included permanent works by Remo Salvadori, Koo Jeong A, Michael Beutler and Adrien Missika (on public display), a publication with Elio Franzini issued by Corraini and several public conferences on landscape, featuring, among the others, Gilles Clément and the French group Coloco, Paolo D'Angelo, Adriana Veríssimo Serrão, Francesco Jodice and Francesco Zanot, Stefanie Hessler and Franco Farinelli. The Board of Advisors is composed of Flavio Albanese, Marco Galateri di Genola, Vicente Todolí, Stefano Baia Curioni and James Bradburne.

Join us

Free entry on reservation by email
to: segreteria@fondazionelaraia.it

Where we are

Forte di Gavi
Via del Forte - Gavi
Google maps: Forte di Gavi

Azienda Agricola Biodinamica La Raia
Strada Monterotondo 79, Novi Ligure
Google maps: Azienda agricola biodinamica La Raia

Fondazione La Raia organization secretary

Monica Alessi
E. segreteria@fondazionelaraia.it | P. +39 02 48548710

Press office

Tina Guiducci
E. tina@la-raia.it | M. +39 335 7295264 | P. +39 02 48548605 | Fondazionelaraia.it

Admittance to the Forte di Gavi exhibition

May 30th - September 7th, from Thursday to Saturday 8.30am-4.30pm.
For extra openings and Sundays please visit:
<http://polomusealepiemonte.beniculturali.it/index.php/musei-e-luoghi-della-cultura/forte-di-gavi/visita-il-forte-di-gavi/>

Tickets:

Full price Euro 5,00; reduced price Euro 2,00; free for visitors younger than 18

Visit Fondazione La Raia

Fondazione La Raia, strada Monterotondo 79 in Novi Ligure, with its permanent works is open to the public by appointment. To schedule an appointment, please call +39 0143 743685.