

MAGIC CARPETS ITALIA
CITY JUNGLE

_____ BERTA TILMANTAITÉ

_____ SUNNY NWUME

_____ MATTEO DE MARCO

City Jungle take its cue from the city, from its morphology and its numerous green areas to be rethought and enhanced.

The **city** and the **forest** share an essence: living ecosystems where one can lose oneself and then find oneself again.

This year's project aimed to involve a wide and diverse audience by focusing precisely on nature, green areas and their ability to become pulsating centres of assembly, creativity, meeting and education.

We wanted to unite different neighbourhoods of Rome conceptually, imagined as satellites of a non-existent planet. This led to a desire to weave a plot to go beyond the satellite, one that opens up to its own spaces as well as those of other neighbourhoods. The city is a **jungle**, but also a **forest** where we can get to know each other and not get lost. Because, despite the vastness of the spaces, every place seems to return to the starting point, the central axis of this project: the meeting places, the particulars that pop up among the stories, people, glances, legends, smiles.

The common denominator for the works developed during this project was the ambition of finding oneself, looking, reflecting, and above all listening, a capability we often neglect.

While our gentle giant, Sunny Nwume (Black Elektronika) let himself be totally absorbed by the stories, sounds, and emotional search for

the other, the silent and sharp gaze of the photographer Berta Tilman-taité was moved by the magnetic capability of others' gaze. Finally, the timid but resolute Matteo De Marco's ability, with the whole VIVIAMO-LAq gang, to adapt to spaces was influenced by the inexhaustible creativity of children. Cosmic sounds, portraits, and intense landscapes invaded the Corviale amphitheatre, the final stop on this wonderful journey, with a colourful and metamorphic ARCA¹. Streets, parks, children with infectious laughter, and unforgettable characters took turns in our City Jungle, creating a mosaic with sparkling and uniquely-shaped tesserae.

Benedetta Carpi De Resmini

1. Itinerant and wooden structure conceived by the Association VIVIAMOLAq and built with the inhabitants of the different neighbourhoods.

ALL THE PIECES OF THE CITY JUNGLE

The Italian verb **attraversare (to cross): in the active, to pass through** a place, **in the passive, to go through** an experience. This verb perfectly expresses the journey we've taken this year. On the one hand, we physically passed through two neighbourhoods, two urban spaces, two different realities, and on the other, we went through emotions, images, stories, people, and sounds.

City Jungle is a complex, intense, and exciting project, made up of many pieces that come together to reveal a whole **puzzle** of places, people, stories, and artists. Let's begin with the **places**: Laurentino 38 and the Corviale. The first is one of the most famous housing projects in Rome and also known for its 11 bridges, originally designed to connect "islands" of condominiums; the second, Corviale, called the "Serpentone" for its length (about 1 km), is a residential complex to the southwest of Rome. This isn't the first time we've chosen to "pass through" these neighbourhoods, but this year was special, because we were accompanied by two truly exceptional **artists: Berta Tilmantaitė and Sunny Nwume**. We've known Berta, a Lithuanian photographer, reporter, and multimedia artist, for several years, because she has collaborated with the MagiC Carpets platform since its beginning, as co-founder of NARA, a collective of journalists and photographers. It was Berta who introduced us to Sunny Nwume, aka Black Elektronika,

an Italian producer, DJ, and composer of Nigerian origin, who is her partner in personal and professional life. Their ability to scrutinize the world, transform daily life into photos and music and above all create connections between human beings, immediately fascinated us, even though we first met through a computer screen. In Rome at the end of August with Sunny and Berta, we strolled through Laurentino38 and the Corviale, making stops in the latter especially. Here, we met the **people** living in the neighbourhood, taking coffee breaks, lunches, and dinners with them – but it was especially their delicateness in creating contacts and personal relationships that became key in becoming – even without our presence – part of the daily life of the area. Sunny's energy and magnetic power to create connections led us to reactivate old connections, and create new ones. Using music, he managed to explore the Corviale's acoustic soul, but above all, he crossed the boundaries of time and space, speaking directly to people's hearts.

Trust, friendship, and passion led Sunny to cross over the apparent "deafening silence" of the Corviale.

The friendship between him and Ivan, a boy who has lived in the Corviale since he was three years old, his relationship with Paolo, a tour guide in Rome's centre, ex singer in a jazz band; his bond with Don Ga-

brielle, the parish priest of a small church on the fourth floor of the long building, and his serenades with Nykolas from Laborintus, Giancarlo and Giulio, “boys” from the Comunità X of artists and musicians, became the glue for the time spent with the community. These people represented the different sound frequencies of the building, and the lives that frantically move around inside it. Together, we listened to and discovered voices, sounds, and noises that, mixed together, gave rise to the acoustic story of the Corviale. Berta’s visual reflection on the depth of these moments naturally combined with this environmental landscape. We got to know **stories** and memories of life lived. Berta, turning herself into a metaphorical blank page, leaving her background as a journalist behind, decided to give others the chance to write part of the story. During her residence, she found it important to listen to what others had to say through images. In fact, her photographs are joined by those taken by Corviale residents Aderico, Manuela, and Ivan. The images impressed on the film of a small analogue camera allow us to go through their life experiences.

Sunny and Berta’s works merged together, revealing the entire image of the **puzzle**: magically composed of sounds and images, just like photography is composed of colours and pixels, and music is created from sounds and notes. Their artistic practices and their stories, together with all the people they experienced them with, left an indelible mark on them and on us.

Attraversare (to cross) – passing through and experiencing a neighbourhood, this year, also meant investigating the infinite variations of urban space. With **Matteo De Marco**, a participating artist in the collective of architecture professionals VIVIAMOLAq, we physically and metaphorically observed and built new spaces, arriving in Laurentino 38 and the Corviale with a mobile wooden device called **ARCA** (Ark). Another **piece** of this intricate **puzzle** of ours was the urban environment and our ecosystem, which is increasingly crying out to us for help.

But who could ever really help us in this endeavour, which we might call biblical?

The answer arrived to us right away: **children**. Free of all superstructures that distinguish the “grownup world”, their curiosity and creativity allowed us to move through spaces, removing the veil of cold and sometimes dark realism from our eyes and minds. It was the children themselves, during the time spent together, who revealed the features of this infinity of mysterious dimensions concealed outside and inside ARCA.

Using only the following as mottos: freedom, fantasy and fun with wood, screws, hammers and paints, we created a new environment together, where it was the very youngest of us that taught us what it means to take care of something, or of someone.

The creation of a physical space that is not defined and uniquely interpreted, led Okè, Federico, Marta, and many other small helpers to freely share feelings and emotions with us. The small explorers we met on this journey with the “ARCA” taught us how important it is to listen to our inner self.

The combination of urban space and green space, of exterior and interior, of amusement and imagination, of wood and colours, took us to a castle with princes and princesses, then a home with parents and grandparents, then to the opening curtains of a lively stage.

With simple gestures, Matteo and his crew were able to create another part of the puzzle made of art and fantasy, where everything, even the impossible, was possible.

Paola Farfaglio



CHAPTER

BERTA AND SUNNY



STREET ART GRAFFITI

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VAG







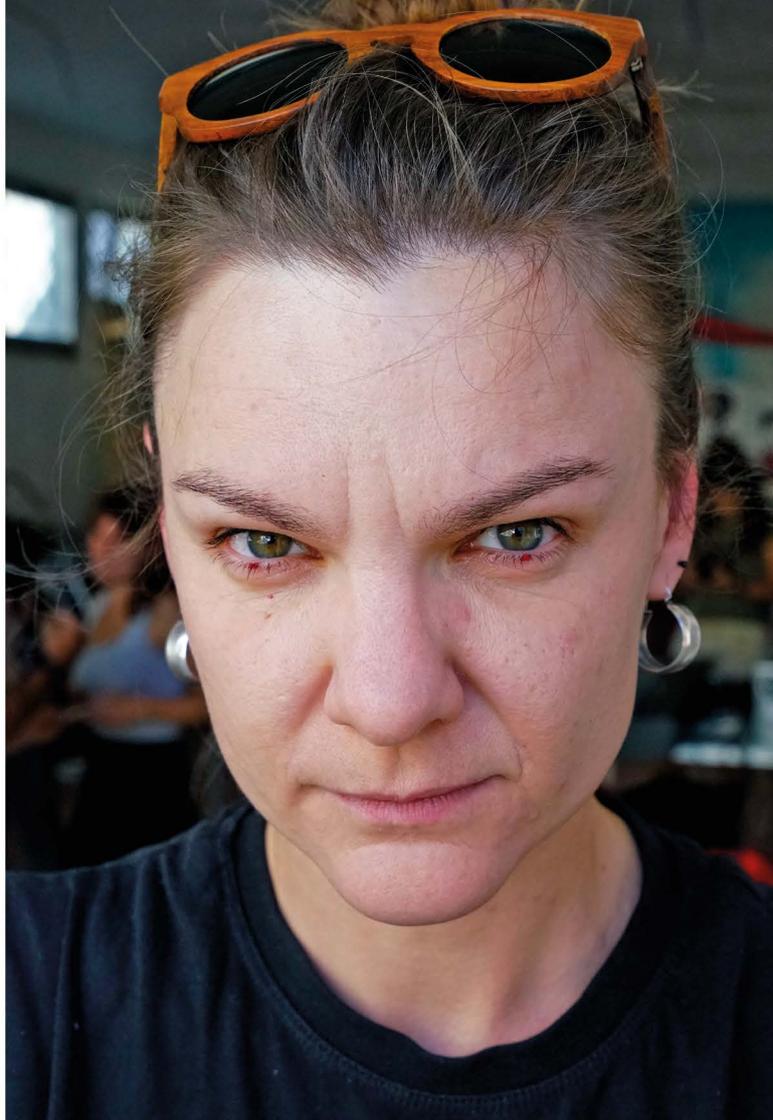


















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ERIMANEMO
SCHERZO L'AMICA
PIU' LONTANO

Gabrielle Gall

CHAPTER
THE PEOPLE



























CHAPTER
THE PRIEST







CHAPTER
THE STREETS







FIER

Mi me
Benedetta

FIRE x TIANO
ONLY
♥



















CHAPTER
MATTEO



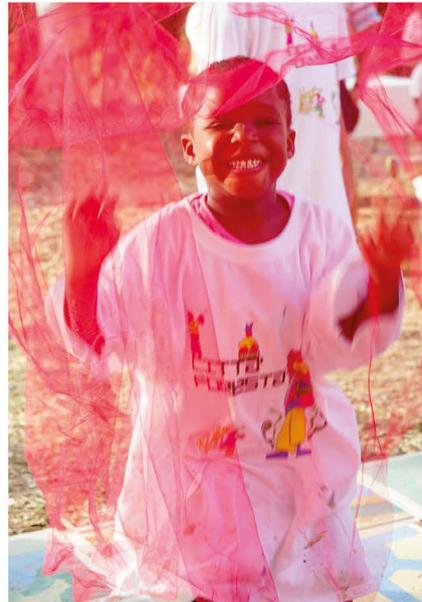
















CHAPTER
THE EVENT















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Benedetta Carpi De Resmini

Artistic Director

Paola Farfaglio

Curator and Project coordinator

Marina Pietrocola

Social media manager

Photographer and video shooting / editing

Chiara Mirabella

Finance Manager

Luis Do Rosario

*Photographer and residency documentation
Catalogue graphic layout*

Isabella Manciola

Graphic Designer

Stefano Pasqualoni

Technical coordinator

Claudia Sisci

Workshop educator

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