

Àitason

by Paolo William Tamburella

curated by Valentina Bruschi

CORTEMPORANEA

Fondazione Palazzo Chigi Zondadari – Siena

6 June – 5 November 2023

Opening June 2, 2023, | 6 – 9 pm

Paolo William Tamburella's new artwork *Àitason* will open the second edition of CORTEMPORANEA, the project that transforms the courtyard and halls of Palazzo Chigi Zondadari – located in Siena's Piazza del Campo – into an exhibition space dedicated to site-specific works by Italian and international artists whom Flavio Misciattelli, President of Fondazione Palazzo Chigi Zondadari has asked to freely interpret the space.

A triumph of vine branches winds from the courtyard through the rooms on the main floor of the mansion, with a rhythm that suggests a dance in the ballroom. A multitude of intertwined branches climb and expand around windows, balconies, and artworks of the collection, as if in a dialectic relationship in which the strength of 18th century architecture and that of nature confront each other in a symbolic embrace.

"Paolo William Tamburella's work renews the desire to activate the Casa Museo (house-museum) and open it to the community through contemporary art projects," says Flavio Misciattelli, "with the aim of furthering the encounter between the present and the past, in which mutual suggestions can become an opportunity for growth and knowledge."

Àitason is a word of Etruscan origin describing the cultivation of vines on trees, a technique also referred to as 'married vine' in reference to the close bond created between the vine and the tree around which it wraps itself for support. Similarly, the artist has conceived the site-specific work for CORTEMPORANEA as a sculptural installation that wraps around and through the courtyard and the interior of the palace to the point of projecting itself beyond its walls. Moreover, in the grand ballroom, vine branches collected by the artist in France at the foot of the Sainte-Victoire Mountain are dressed in a precious golden armour – a second skin, an act of protection but even more of rebirth.

The material for the installation was collected by the artist not only in the vineyards of Provence but also in the vine-growing areas around Siena, in an ideal connection between the millenary tradition of viticulture in these different areas of the Mediterranean and the context of Palazzo Chigi

Zondadari. The mansion is still owned by one of the oldest families in the local area, whose wealth has always been rooted in agricultural activity and then also reinvested in cultured patronage, as the palace's collection testifies.

As curator Valentina Bruschi writes in her essay for the catalogue, "Paolo William Tamburella's sculptural installation becomes a unique work of art in which the intertwining of surprisingly large vines grafted onto the 18th-century architecture of the palace seems to celebrate its magnificence in a eulogy of past centuries and of Time in which nature is in symbiosis with the house, as if it had always lived there and had always engaged in a mutual dialogue."

Paolo William Tamburella is an artist that lives and works between Rome and Tuscany and is known for his site-specific interventions produced using the most diverse materials as part of a dialogue with the contexts that host them. His works address various issues related to cultural identity and the enhancement and rediscovery of traditions. He has participated in the 53rd Venice Biennale and the 2nd Singapore Biennale and began his exhibition career in New York with gallery owner Annina Nosei. He was co-curator of the first Bangladesh pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale.

Palazzo Chigi Zondadari, which was commissioned by Cardinal Antonfelice Zondadari (1655-1737) and his brother Bonaventura (1652-1719) and became the family's residence in Siena in 1724, was the last palace to be built in Piazza del Campo in Siena. It is a linear building with five orders of windows, an internal courtyard, and a slender grand staircase. Among the interior spaces, the noble floor is the most interesting one, with its flight of salons and galleries, frescoed ceilings, and art collection.

Opening hours

Corte and Aitason: Monday - Friday 8am-8pm | Saturday and Sunday by request only.

Casa Museo: check the website www.palazzochigizondadari.com

For private tour and groups send an e-mail to fondazione@palazzochigizondadari.com

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