

INCURVA

Press Release

October 2021

Diego Marcon: *The Parents' Room*

October 9, 2021

11.00-17.00: Site-specific installation at the Cinema King, Trapani

12.00: Talk with Diego Marcon and Andrea Viliani at Palazzo Berardo Ferro, Trapani



Diego Marcon, *The Parents' Room*, 2021. Backstage. Photo: Giulia Guidi

INCURVA presents a site-specific installation of *The Parents' Room* (2021) - a film by Diego Marcon (b. 1985, Busto Arsizio, Italy) - at Cinema King, Trapani on October 9, 2021.

Presented as a world premiere during Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, *The Parents' Room* will be staged in an installation designed specifically for the Cinema King in Trapani, and will be accompanied by a conversation between the artist and Andrea Viliani, along with a program of educational activities for children.

On Saturday 9 October, the film—designed to repeat endlessly in a circular fashion—will be screened on a six-hour loop at the Cinema King, during which time the cinema will be open to the public and freely accessible. The artist conceived a number of enigmatic large-format posters which will be displayed in the vitrines within and outside the theater which have the effect of transforming the environment into a device for the film.

During the screening, in Palazzo Berardo Ferro (Trapani), Diego Marcon will be involved in a public conversation with Andrea Vilianni—director and curator of the Castello di Rivoli Research Centre, as well as founder and curator of Pompeii Commitment—in which the artist will discuss the themes linked to the film, his practice in general, and his particular relationship with Trapani, where in 2018 he took part in Curva Blu: the artists' residency program held by INCURVA on the island of Favignana.

In the days leading up to the screening, the artist will lead a series of workshops for kids on direct animation: a technique which consists of creating images directly onto unprocessed film, by drawing, painting, scratching, perforating, and writing.

Drawing from musicals, horror movies and cartoons, *The Parents' Room* continues Marcon's exploration of the deconstruction of the language of cinema and its most popular genres. The film's characters wear silicone masks - modeled on the actors' own faces through the use of prosthetics - a technique that realistically recreates their facial features while inhibiting expression. 'Real on real,' as art historian and curator Eva Fabbris writes in her text for Marcon's first monographic volume, *Three Works* (2021), published by Lenz Press, 'normal faces on normal faces; but without the expressive and gestural semiotics that make them faces.'

The work's soundtrack is composed by Federico Chiari, a musician, sound engineer and sound designer who has been responsible for the musical aspects of all of Marcon's videos and films ever since his early work. Recorded at Trinity School of Music in London, the score of *The Parents' Room* accompanies the protagonists with an ensemble of wind instruments and harp.

The Parents' Room premiered at the Cannes Film Festival's Directors' Fortnight (53rd edition, July 7–17, 2021), at the FIDMarseille International Film Festival (32nd edition, July 19–25, 2021), in a solo exhibition by Diego Marcon at Madre–Museo d'arte contemporanea Donnaregina in Naples (September 16 – November 8, 2021), and will be presented at the opening of the new Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam (November 2021). The work will become part of the permanent collection of the Madre Museum in Naples.

Co-produced by INCURVA (Trapani) and Fondazione Donnaregina per le arti contemporanee - Museo Madre (Naples), the project is supported by the Italian Council (7th Edition, 2019), a program by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture that promotes Italian contemporary art throughout the world. The film is produced in

partnership with Primitive Film and the FIDLab International co-production platform. INCURVA would like to extend further special thanks to ERMES ERMES, Rome-Vienna; Fondazione In Between Art Film, Rome; Fondazione Memmo, Rome; and Gasworks, London.

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Diego Marcon (b. 1985, Busto Arsizio, Italy, based in Milan) works with drawing, film, video, and installation. Marcon's work bridges experimental structuralist cinema and popular genre cinema. His research focuses on the relationship between reality and representation, investigating the ontology of the moving image and the possibility for it to be a tool for the investigation of reality through the phantasmagorical sphere. Recent exhibitions include Fondazione Prada, Milan; Quadriennale d'arte 2020 FUORI, Rome; MACRO Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome; Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore; La Triennale di Milano; Museo MAXXI, Rome; Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan; Matadero, Madrid; OCAT, Shanghai; Artspace, Auckland; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris. His films have been screened in film festivals including Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival, Cannes; International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam; Cinéma du Réel, Paris; Courtisane, Gent; BFI, London; and doclisboa, Lisbon. In 2018, Marcon won the Henraux Foundation Sculpture Award and the MAXXI Bulgari Prize.

INCURVA is a non-profit cultural association established in Trapani (Italy) in 2016, and it is a promoter of contemporary art in Sicily. INCURVA initiates projects that promote artistic research and production, and aims to reactivate the use of public spaces and encourage the participation of the local community. INCURVA's main activity is an international artist residency programme called Curva Blu. Taking place annually, the curated programme offers four artists a residency on the island of Favignana, and culminates in a public showcase and series of talks and events prepared by the artists. Past participants include Trisha Baga (USA), Lydia Ourahmane (DZ), Megan Rooney (CA), and many others. INCURVA, in collaboration with a network of publishing, production and exhibition partners also supports special production projects, the most recent being Diego Marcon's film *The Parents' Room* (2021).

The Fondazione Donnaregina per le arti contemporanee (Donnaregina Contemporary Art Foundation) was established in 2004 by the Campania Regional Government with the mission to institute, promote and manage art museum structures in the Campania region. The Madre museo d'arte contemporanea Donnaregina opened the following year in a historical building renovated by Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza Vieira in collaboration with Studio DAZ-Dumontet Antonini Zaske Architetti Associati, Naples. In-depth retrospective solo exhibitions have constituted most of the Madre museum's cultural offer over its first 15 years of activity. During the same period, significant work has also been undertaken to bring the art of the city of Naples and the Campania region into dialogue with other artistic geographies. Between 2018 and 2020, the year Kathryn Weir succeeded Andrea Vilianni as Madre's artistic director, the program

increasingly opened up to multidisciplinary practices and to the museum's social role in the Neapolitan urban context.

Italian Council is the program promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture, founded in 2017 with the aim of supporting Italian contemporary art within the framework of a broader international promotion.

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