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radis

**Petrit Halilaj is the artist for the second edition of
Radis, the art project in the public space
by the Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT
in collaboration with Fondazione CRC**

This new edition will be held in Dogliani (Cuneo) - Borgata Valdibà

*Turin, April the 22nd, 2025. **Radis** is an art project in the public space developed and promoted by the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT**, the art-oriented body of the **Fondazione CRT**. It is now in its **second edition** following the extremely successful experience of the first edition with **Giulia Cenci's** work *le masche* in the town of Rittana. This second edition is anew curated by **Marta Papini** once more **in collaboration with the Fondazione CRC**, with the Kosovar visual artist **Petrit Halilaj** who will create a site-specific work in **Borgata Valdibà**, in the district of Dogliani (Cuneo).*

The two institutions will engage in an exchange with the territory and its community as they have done before, shaping the idea of widespread heritage into tangibles which is one of the statutory missions of the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT** and the **Fondazione CRT**, as always committed to **broadening access to culture and art for all**.

In the four-year period 2024-2027 **Radis** will develop works in the public space by actively involving residents, local agencies, bodies and associations. New works will be a two-way exchange with local history and landscape, creatively contributing to a new shared imaginary, and could also become a magnet for an environmentally aware sustainable tourism.

*"By supporting a project like **Radis** we are firmly reasserting our vision of culture as a common good, embedded in local territories, generating value for communities – says **Anna Maria Poggi, President of the Fondazione CRT**. "This second edition confirms and strengthens the shared commitment of the **Fondazione CRT** with the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT** and the **Fondazione CRC**, to promote contemporary art as a means, a tool to enhance participation, education and social cohesion. The work will establish a two-way exchange with Dogliani, its landscape, a place rich in history and beauty, becoming part of the town, contributing to a renewed identity now and for the future.*

*"We are pleased to launch the second edition of **Radis**, a project that has the aim of broadening the Foundation's vision and operations on a regional scale, operating with local communities in public spaces, leaving a legacy of art works", says **Patrizia Sandretto Re***

Rebaudengo, President of the *Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT*. “Radis is a multifaceted project, and the presence of art is accompanied by educational activities for local schools and more in-depth events aimed at a range of audiences. This approach requires us to recognise attentive and dedicated communities, able to welcome art with curiosity such as Claudio Raviola, Mayor of Dogliani, Gianluca Navello, Head of the Department, and all the people that gave their full support from the outset, all of whom I would like to express my gratitude, to first and foremost. I would like to thank the Fondazione CRC and its President Mauro Gola who for the second year running reacted positively to our proposal to work together for this art legacy project. I would also like to thank the curator Marta Papini, and her team, and Petrit Halilaj, the artist for having accepted this new challenge without hesitation. And lastly, I would like to thank the Fondazione CRT and its president Anna Maria Poggi for wholly sharing our aims of the project”.

Radis, whose name comes from the word for *root* in Piedmontese, is aimed at bringing contemporary art to a wider audience and operates in original, unconventional contexts. **Radis** has a multipronged approach: permanent public art works, and educational programme for schools, a public programme and an exhibition drawing from the collections of the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT** and of the **Fondazione CRC**, thus offering a wealth of cultural events open to all audiences. This second edition will see the artist selected by the curator make a site-specific work that will remain the property of the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT**, on permanent loan to the **Town of Dogliani**.

The work will be inaugurated in **October 2025** along with a group exhibition including works from the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT** and of the **Fondazione CRC** curated by **Marta Papini** and **Leonardo Pietropaolo**.

*“The first edition took place involving a mountain community. We are extremely pleased to pursue our collaboration with the **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT** in 2025” says **Mauro Gola, President of the Fondazione CRC**. “**Radis** is an important opportunity to stimulate our communities with a shared and participated public art project. Its approach aims to regenerate an abandoned space that will come back to life through the gaze and sensitivity of the artist and the involvement of the community, already attracting many events promoted by the Fondazione CRC. We are confident that thanks to the project’s location, on the edge of a UNESCO area, this new edition will build on the success of **Radis** and contribute to the appreciation of the province”.*

*“The Municipality of Dogliani is pleased to welcome the second edition of **Radis**, a project that combines and establishes a dialogue between the energy of contemporary art and the identity of the territories and communities that habit them.” says **Claudio Raviola**, the Mayor of Dogliani. “The choice of the old country school of the Borgata Valdibà (the Valdiba' Hamlet) as the site for an artistic intervention is a unique opportunity for us. The place is strongly rooted in our collective memory and is framed by a landscape of rare beauty. The art project will grant an important area of our district new visibility. The site is along the road connecting Dogliani to Monforte and the installation will offer yet another reason to travel along that way, adding to the many opportunities for sustainable tourism, with a slower pace and longer time for a stroll or a bicycle ride. Its slow tempo creates the space to observe and experience the landscape, fully communicating with Nature.”*

The curator **Marta Papini** invited artist **Petrit Halilaj** (1986, Kostërrc, Kosovo) to work in the **Borgata Valdibà**. The area lies in a *belvedere* at the heart of the Langhe along a road connecting Dogliani to Monforte d'Alba, that walkers, ramblers, hikers and cyclists can enjoy from Spring through Autumn. Here, alongside the Church of *San Bartolomeo* (Saint Bartholemew) and its rectory, lies a compact two storey building that was the school of the hamlet until the 1960s, a point of reference for all the boys and girls of the surroundings. The school is no longer usable but where artist **Petrit Halilaj** will create a work as part of the **Abetare (Primer Book)** series, created from doodles scribbled on school desks.

The *Abetare* series started in 2015, using the archive of the doodles and drawings on the desks in the school in Runik (Kosovo), the village where Halilaj grew up in. Over the past ten years the artist has created a doodle and drawing archive that inspire him: the results are monumental steel and bronze sculptures, drawing from the childhood imaginaries in different times and space overlapping into a single language. The *Abetare* series has been exhibited in several major institutions, including the roof top of the New York Metropolitan Museum in 2024, as part of the Roof Garden Commission.

For **Radis** Halilaj will work starting with the doodles and drawings found on the Dogliani school desks combined with those from his archive. The work will occupy the space once filled by the former school, as if a stylized house with no walls, inhabited by imaginary creatures from the school desks of the Langhe and the Balkans: their meeting will shape a monument to the universal language of imagination and fantasy.

"When I saw that old school on the top of the Borgata Valdibà hill my thoughts went to Petrit Halilaj and his sculptures inspired by the drawings etched on school desks," said Marta Papini. "I invited the artist to imagine a work that replaced the building, celebrating the imagination and the freedom that for years inhabited the space among the walls that are now crumbling, suggesting a new future for the space."

"Where the old Borgata Valdibà once stood, I suggest the house of imagination, decorated with the scribbles and daydreams of the pupils from Dogliani and from all the Balkans; a towering fantasy freely floating across political and geographical boundaries." says artist Petrit Halilaj.

Petrit Halilaj was born in 1986 in Kostërrc, in Kosovo. He has participated in many internationally renowned group and solo exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale in 2017. Halilaj was invited by Marta Papini to the second edition of **Radis** for his ability to create poetic works stemming from memory and imaginations. His work can be seen as a playful and at times irreverent attempt to use all forms of relationships and freedom to resist oppressive policies and social norms.

For information: www.radis-crt.it

The **Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT**, an art-oriented organisation of the **Fondazione CRT**, mainly active in the region and local area, is celebrating twenty-five

years of its support to contemporary art this year. Since it was established in 2000, the Foundation has acted and aimed at promoting talent, enriching cultural heritage, and has built up an extensive collection of contemporary artworks, which has become one of the most prestigious in Italy and internationally: over **930** works by about **380** artists, with a total investment of over **€41.5** million.

The **Fondazione CRT** was established in 1991 and is the third largest Italian bank foundation in terms of assets. Since its establishment, it has donated a total of more than €2 billion to over 43,000 projects dedicated to art, research, education, welfare, the environment and innovation in north-west Italy. The Foundation also experiments with impact investing, and one of the leading examples in Europe is the urban regeneration of the OGR Torino, the former train repair workshops, which have been redeveloped and converted into an innovative international centre for art and culture, scientific, technological and industrial research.

The **Fondazione CRC** is a private, independent, non-profit organisation that pursues public interest and economic development through grants to public and private not for profit bodies and institutions and through projects promoted directly, in partnership with agencies and entities active in various fields, in the province of Cuneo. Since 2017 the Foundation initiatives include expanding its art collection with the *Coltivarte* project, which involves the acquisition of contemporary works and the creation of opportunities for public enjoyment among the initiatives promoted in the artistic and cultural sphere.

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