

THE INDEPENDENT

The MAXXI project supporting independent spaces and thinking continues with the Cypriot collective **Urban Gorillas** presenting **Urban Spectacle**

9 February – 19 March 2017

www.fondazionemaxxi.it | www.theindependentproject.it

*An independent acts against all prejudice
of a political, economic, religious or social nature
(Urban Gorillas)*

Rome, 8 February 2017. They see being independent as finding creative solutions to social, political and economic emergencies, they believe that for a public project to have true strength it should be realised together with the local community. **From 9 February Urban Spectacle** by the Cypriot group **Urban Gorillas** will be inaugurating the 2017 season of **The Independent**, MAXXI's research project focusing on independent thinking curated by **Giulia Ferracci** and **Elena Motisi**.

Invited to participate in **THE INDEPENDENT**, the group founded in 2013 has chosen to present **Urban Spectacle**, a series of public interventions exploring fundamental human activities in public spaces, starting out from the relationship that is established between observer, actor and spatial context and attempting to initiate a new dialogue between them. Urban space is analysed through diverse actions, both from the point of view of the spectator and the actor, in contexts in which the confines between public and private are increasingly blurred and give rise to contaminations. The aim of **Urban Gorillas'** work is to encourage people to overcome stereotypical ways of looking at the other and to interact amongst themselves in urban public spaces. **Urban Spectacle** therefore presents a new production created for MAXXI revisiting the ways in which we usually related to society in a broad sense, suggesting a more active commitment and a more aware approach in relation to such spaces.

"We are truly independent when the artistic practices are executed independently of any particular predefined dictate or model", say the Urban Gorillas. "We are presenting a creative, green and socially committed city. Within such a context, being independent means pursuing objective ideas and convictions, as well as involving the community in the planning and actuation of creative practices to its own benefit."

Within the ambit of initiatives associated with architecture and planning, **THE INDEPENDENT** pays particular attention to independent work in areas "of crisis" or those characterised by complex socio-political dynamics that frequently become a source of inspiration. The research conducted by the **Urban Gorillas** to date has revealed that public spaces in Cyprus are currently under-used and socially segregated, a factor that prepares the ground for new and innovative methods for designing public spaces. What has developed is a broad-based initiative that has seen concrete urban interventions in various contexts in the city and with the involvement of diverse bodies and institutions.

THE INDEPENDENT is a research project focusing on the identification and promotion of independent spaces and thinking that is intended to overcome institutional limits and stimulate and nurture diverse modes of contemporary intervention within the fields of the visual arts, architecture, design and social practice. Associated with the project, the site www.theindependentproject.it monitors the growth of independent spaces in a continually expanding mapping of independent realities, offering them a forum for exchange and a space for promoting their activities.

Urban Gorillas is a no-profit organization based in Nicosia (Cyprus), run by a multi-disciplinary team of urban enthusiasts with a vision of healthy, creative and socially inclusive cities. Urban Gorillas embraces projects capable of instilling new energy in urban spaces and communities, promoting change. We transform public spaces into lively and innovative centres, educating the community and promoting policies with a positive social impact. <http://www.urbangorillas.org>



MUSEO NAZIONALE
DELLE ARTI DEL XXI SECOLO

The press kit and images of the exhibition can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.fondazionemaxxi.it/area-riservata/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

MAXXI – National Museum of XXI Century Arts

www.fondazionemaxxi.it - info:06.320.19.54; info@fondazionemaxxi.it

opening hours: 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri, Sun) | 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM (Sat) | closed Mondays

Admittance free for students of art architecture from Tuesday to Friday

MAXXI PRESS OFFICE +39 06 324861 press@fondazionemaxxi.it

soci
founding members



Ministero
del beni e delle
attività culturali
e del turismo

enel



REGIONE
LAZIO

partner MAXXI Architettura

ALCANTARA®