

PRESS RELEASE

Vibrations between Italy and India *The contemporary scene*

Artistic Project by ***Simona Frillici***

Kolkata (India): BCAF Bridging Culture and Arts Foundation
28 February - 9 March 2025

Varanasi (India): Art Gallery of the BHU Banaras Hindu University
17 - 22 March 2025



Curator ***Bruno Corà***

Co-curator for the Kolkata exhibition ***Reena Dewan***

With the participation of ***Paulo Barone***

Patronage ***Embassy of India Rome, University for Foreigners Perugia***

The project originates from Simona Frillici's recent works, entitled Vibrations, which were inspired by photographic images she took in India during her last visits from 2020 to 2024. They are images of human reflections on mirrored surfaces. Shadows, disintegrating figures, echoes, visual waves, which propagate until they are no longer visible to the human eye, but nevertheless remain as energy. The moment seems to be captured in the works: a second before everything becomes invisible.

From the critic text "Simona Frillici: Vibrations of Existential Time – Space", Bruno Corà writes:

"... From the deluge of images that each one of us is invested with on a daily basis, emitted by the media to such an extent as to induce an addiction, a perceptive coma and authentic unease, those conceived and elaborated by Simona Frillici happily succeed in arousing a shock, an awakening of the cognitive attitude.

"... The palpitation of Frillici's images is the indirect one that comes from a reflected presence, from a liquid mirror, from a living nature, from a manifestation already devoid of physicality - as is a reflection or a shadow in an image - therefore from an appearance whose subject has a different physical state, different consistency, different temporality and spatiality. That dynamic coefficient that distinguishes Vibrations from a still photograph is the "élan vital", which art claims to be free from time and from the thanatological rigidity that the past and represented instant suggests."

"...Frillici's images tell of a humanity of reflections and energies that real bodies are pervaded with, but of which their image, while showing their vibrations, is devoid! And this is because - as the artist states - our mind despite perceiving appearances bathed in light is unable to see or feel the vibrations. Yet art, capable of visualising immateriality, comes to the rescue of this absence. Once again, the artist with the work must become a "seer" to make visible reality otherwise elusive and

invisible, and with it, the precariousness of time and space available to every existence." January 2025

The title ***Vibrations*** refers to the idea of quantum physics, which states that everything is vibration, which is energy. From present times to the *Music of the Spheres* of the ancient Greek philosophers, which inspired, among others, Nobel Prize winner and Calcutta native Rabindranath Tagore.

In the two exhibitions, Simona Frillici presents site-specific installations made of large prints on fabric.

During the Kolkata exhibition, local artists, with specific performances and creations, will establish a dialogue with Simona Frillici's installation, following the principle that states that Art and Culture are best expressed and developed in conditions of openness, encounter and dialogue between different worlds. Bringing forth the enrichment and evolution of social groups.

The two exhibitions in Kolkata and Varanasi, on 8 and 18 March 2025, will be enriched by the participation of Prof. **Paulo Barone**, whose vision of the contemporary world, expressed in the book *"Benares - Atlas of the 21st Century"* in poetic-philosophical language, has a strong connection and complementarity with the works of **Simona Frillici**.

Paulo Barone, on this occasion, will present his new publication in English *"Banaras - Atlas of the 21st Century"* Motilal Banarsidass edition, 2024.

Short biography of the personalities involved

Simona Frillici, born in Umbria in 1966, is an Italian artist who explores themes related to human existence through painting, photography, video and installations. After graduating in painting from the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia in 1988, under the guidance of the artist Nuvolo and the critic and art historian Bruno Corà, she developed a research focused on “material” as a feminine principle in art. Her work focuses on the duality between image and reality, visible and invisible, appearance and essence, questioning what is real and true in the image-dominated contemporary era. She mainly uses photography, often reworking faces found on the web, printed and painted with acrylic paints, creating what she calls “the substance of images”. She has exhibited her works in numerous prestigious venues in Italy and abroad, including the Quadriennale in Rome in 2008 and international spaces such as the Wooster Arts Space in New York in 2006. In 2011, she presented her first video, “*What is Art?*”, at the Italian Pavilion of the Venice Biennale, Umbria Region, stimulating a reflection on the meaning of artistic creation. In recent years, inspired by her travels in India, she has been working on a series of works entitled “Vibrations”, exploring the contrasts and harmonies between cultures through images and installations.

Bruno Corà, is a prominent Italian art historian and critic. He began his career in the 1960s in Milan and Rome, collaborating with the Incontri

Internazionali d'Arte in Rome and coordinating historical exhibitions such as *"Vitalità del negativo nell'arte italiana 1960/70"* and *"Contemporanea"* in 1973. From 1979 to 1999, Corà taught History of Art at the 'Pietro Vannucci' Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia. Subsequently, he held academic positions at the University of Cassino and the University of Florence. He has directed preominent institutions such as the Centre for Contemporary Art Luigi Pecci of Prato, Palazzo Fabroni Contemporary Visual Arts of Pistoia, the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum of La Spezia and the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum of Lugano. Since 2013 he has been President of the Palazzo Albizzini Collection Burri Foundation of Città di Castello. Corà has curated numerous international exhibitions and written over three hundred critical essays, making a significant contribution to the dissemination and understanding of contemporary art.

Reena Dewan is a renowned art curator, educator and Director of the Bridging Culture and Arts Foundation(B-CAF) which she has transformed into a dynamic platform for artistic innovation where she organises art festivals, performances, talks and skills development programmes that empower artists, promote experimentation and engage diverse communities. As an educator, Reena is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers. She teaches at eminent institutions such as the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Heritage Academy and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), where she shares her expertise in arts management and curating. At B-CAF, Reena works with artists curating programmes that address critical global issues such as environmental sustainability, gender

equality and the preservation of intergenerational knowledge. Her work emphasises the transformative power of art in inspiring meaningful dialogues and social change. For her contribution to the arts, she has won major awards such as fellowships at the Australian Council's International Leadership Program, Art Think South Asia, the International Society for Performing Arts and the Singapore International Foundation's Art for Good Fellowship, as well as the Emerging Scholar award from Ground Research Networks, consolidating her reputation as a leader in the arts and culture sector. Her global vision is further reflected as a board member of ICOM INTERCOM (International Council of Museums). Previously, as President of ICOM India, she brought her vision to international forums. Through her work at B-CAF and as an educator, Reena continues to champion the transformative power of art, creating spaces where creativity thrives and diverse voices are celebrated.

Paulo Barone: studied medicine and psychiatry in Rome and philosophy in Turin and currently resides in Milan. Psychiatrist, Jungian psychoanalyst, HDR (Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches) in philosophy at Paris 8 (France), ordinary member of the Italian Association of Analytical Psychology and the International Association of Analytical Psychology, he is Honorary Professor at the Sanskriti Sanvardhan & Sanshodhan Pratishthan Institute in Mumbai (India). He has published several works, including "From fairy tale to psychosis: perspectives for a social ontology" (Bulzoni, Rome 1983); "The age of dust: Giacometti, Heidegger, Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer and the aesthetic space of transience" (Marsilio, Venice 1999); "Jungism:

deformation and fragments of psychic life" (Cortina, Milan 2004);
"Spensierarsi: Raimon Panikkar and the Chirping Machine" (Diabasis, Reggio Emilia 2007); "Mystical Survival: The Geography of the Infinitely Near" (Pilgrims Publishing, 2012); "Benares" (Nottetempo Editions 2019); "The Need for Introversion" (Raffaello Cortina Editore, 2023); "Banaras" (Motilal Banarsidass Editions 2024).

For further informations contact:

fabiovecchietti@gmail.com

valoreaggiunto@mypec.eu

T+39 3480077416