



chapter 2

HYBRIDIZATION

Call for the selection of artworks and projects
Deadline: February 10, 2025



INTRODUCTION

NATURES QUAESTIONES draws inspiration from Seneca's treatise of the same name, a work structured in seven books dedicated to the analysis of natural phenomena such as fire and mirrors, lightning and thunderbolts, terrestrial waters, atmospheric phenomena, winds, earthquakes, and comets. This text represents not only a philosophical and scientific inquiry into natural phenomena but also an invitation to critically reflect on the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources by a few and their commodification. At the same time, Seneca extols scientific progress as a tool to elevate human consciousness and bring it closer to a divine dimension.

The contemporary art project NATURES QUAESTIONES takes its inspiration from the principles and structure of this classic work, adopting its division into seven chapters, each translated into an exhibition event that combines nature and culture through a multidisciplinary and contemporary lens. The project aims to foster deep reflection on the balance between humanity and the environment, promoting an alliance among scientific, technological, and social progress, artistic research, and environmental sustainability.

The events, dispersed across time and space, serve as platforms for dialogue on the pressing issues of our time. They invite individuals to consider their personal responsibility in environmental preservation, the transition to circular economies, and the adoption of virtuous daily practices, such as waste reduction. Each exhibition path also aspires to emphasize the value of time, proposing slow-paced engagement modes that encourage greater awareness, complemented by guided tours and collateral activities.

Active since the summer of 2023 and set to conclude in autumn 2026, NATURES QUAESTIONES will consist of seven independent events or "containers," each tailored to the specific characteristics of the location and territory hosting it. Each exhibition-chapter will center around a keyword as its guiding theme, echoing the structural approach of Seneca's treatise.

The seven exhibitions will take place in as many locations across seven different Italian regions, utilizing outdoor spaces or "regenerated" venues, in a perspective of enhancing disused or abandoned areas. These locations may include green spaces such as parks, gardens, nature reserves, botanical gardens, and forests, both public and privately owned but open to the public.

The publication of the project's complete catalog, featuring detailed documentation on venues, events, and artworks, is expected by the end of 2026, barring different agreements with the promoters of the individual initiatives. NATURES QUAESTIONES invites artists and audiences alike to partake in an experience that transforms contemporary art into a vehicle for reflection and awareness about the present and future of our planet.



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

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PURPOSE

For the second chapter of NATURES QUAESTIONES, inspired by the keyword HYBRIDIZATION, the SCD Studio Association is issuing a call for participation to select five projects or artworks. Deadline 10th February 2025.

Eligible forms and languages include: installation, fiber art, textile art, photography, video art, performance, participatory and/or relational art, and sculpture.

The exhibition will take place at CASERMARCHEOLOGICA in Sansepolcro, from late March to September 2025.

THEME

CHAPTER 2 | HYBRIDIZATION

Following CHAPTER 1 | CARE, the second chapter of NATURES QUAESTIONES is dedicated to HYBRIDIZATION.

Hybridization, as a creative principle, is a process of fusion and convergence between distinct elements, which, through their interaction, generate new perspectives, spark novel reflections, and open unexplored horizons. It is not merely a combination of forms but a profound transformation that, by transcending disciplinary and conceptual boundaries, creates room for the emergence of new visions capable of addressing the urgent challenges of our time. This phenomenon, rooted in cross-pollination and interdisciplinarity, offers a powerful tool to explore and reinterpret the complex dynamics of our world, prompting us to question our collective future and the responsibilities it entails.

Through art, the project seeks to explore the many dimensions of hybridization, inviting artists to delve into and reinterpret new balances and possibilities. In a world marked by rapid changes, from ecological challenges to social crises, art becomes a privileged space for reflection, capable of provoking critical questions and suggesting innovative paths. The aim is to open a space for reflection that fosters alternative visions for a more sustainable future, where we can rethink our coexistence with the planet, other species, and both living and non-living entities



Hybridization, in this context, is not just a combination of techniques and materials but a practice that invites us to question our certainties, reconsider our actions, and acquire a renewed awareness of our personal responsibility toward the world. The artworks on display not only challenge the public on global issues but also offer more intimate and personal reflections, encouraging awareness that transcends the collective level. They stimulate contemplation of individual commitment, inviting each visitor to consider unexplored paths and actions within their reach to contribute to a different future, even in everyday life.

The responsibility emerging from the artworks is not an abstract concept but a tangible challenge that each of us is called to take on. Reflecting on hybridization pushes us to reconsider our habits, beliefs, and ways of interacting with the environment around us. Art thus becomes a catalyst for action, a lens through which to view the present and imagine alternatives, suggesting, through aesthetics and critical thinking, that every change begins with ourselves and the choices we make daily.

In this way, the project not only promotes reflection on major global issues but also calls for tangible, immediate engagement from each individual. It ensures that art does not remain a mere theoretical exercise but becomes the starting point for real and concrete transformation, capable of triggering positive and innovative changes at both individual and collective levels.

EXHIBITION VENUE

CASERMARCHEOLOGICA

 www.casermarcheologica.it

Since its construction in 1536, Palazzo Muglioni, a symbol of the history of Sansepolcro, has served various roles: from a noble residence and cultural center under Minerva Muglioni's stewardship, to the first headquarters of Buitoni, to a Carabinieri barracks and a school annex in the 1980s.

After decades of abandonment, in 2013, a group of students from the "Città di Piero" High School and their teacher, Ilaria Margutti, began regenerating the building, transforming it into a space for creativity and intergenerational exchange.

However, this revival was interrupted in 2015 due to safety issues, prompting the group to structure the CasermArcheologica project more solidly. With funding from the Culturability grant and the addition of cultural project designer Laura Caruso, the initiative gained momentum. Caruso's expertise enabled the project to grow and develop further. The reopening in 2017 with the Agibile exhibition marked a new phase, involving local professionals and artisans to restore the space.

Since then, CasermArcheologica has become a model of cultural regeneration, blending the historical memory of the site with projects of social and cultural innovation. It fosters ongoing dialogue between art, culture, education, and local communities, operating as a hybrid entity that promotes reflection and creative engagement.



Integrated into national networks for urban regeneration, the association combines multiple educational and cultural dimensions, creating a permanent laboratory for inclusive and sustainable planning. Supported by institutions such as the CR Firenze Foundation, it continues to grow through progressive approaches, room by room, goal by goal, in dialogue with the territory and its needs.

The visible layers within the palace walls have become a metaphor for the project itself, aiming to generate a lasting cultural legacy and inspire new practices for valuing heritage and human capital.

...ABOUT A PLACE

Palazzo Muglioni, an imposing Renaissance building located in the heart of Sansepolcro, boasts a rich history intertwining culture, architecture, and memory. Built upon medieval structures by the noble Muglioni family, the palace is distinguished by its spacious halls adorned with stucco decorations, coffered and vaulted ceilings, a terrace, and a hanging garden. Also used as a convent, its rear facade on Via Fiorenzuola reflects its 16th-century origins, while the main facade, dating to the 19th century, showcases more recent interventions. Over time, the palace has served as a central hub for the city's cultural life. In the 19th century, Minerva Muglioni, wife of Silvio Buitoni, transformed the building into a vibrant center of artistic and social exchange, hosting cultural salons that greatly influenced the local community.

Despite the passage of time, the building has retained its charm, inspiring numerous Italian and international artists who have collaborated with CasermArcheologica.

Since 2017, thanks to initiatives promoted by CasermArcheologica, Palazzo Muglioni has been revitalized. Today, it serves as a permanent space for contemporary art, a co-working hub, and a training center, solidifying its role as a cultural heartbeat and a symbol of artistic regeneration in Sansepolcro.

PROMOTING ENTITY

SCD STUDIO

The NATURALES QUAESTIONES project is conceived and promoted by SCD STUDIO, an Italian association based in Perugia that supports the dissemination, experimentation, and promotion of contemporary art, with particular attention to fiber art. Its dedication to exchange and connections with other organizations has led to the development of projects across Italy, European-wide contests aimed at museum and institutional initiatives, and the publication of catalogs documenting exhibitions and events.

A continuous research effort has enabled SCD Studio to organize dozens of events to date, including exhibitions, festivals, meetings, book launches, docufilm screenings, studio visits, and relational art interventions.

The Studio continues its commitment to building bridges of knowledge and relationships that are not only spatial but also temporal, spanning countries and cultures as well as generations. It explores territories, traditions, and ancient techniques, reinterpreting them in a contemporary context.