LA GALERIE
UQÀM

Round table

Entangled Histories: Italy and the Horn of Africa

January 20th, 2023

Moderator: Marisa Portolese

2:00 - 2:15 pm: Greetings from Louise Déry, Galerie de l'UQAM, and Sandro Cappelli, Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal

2:15 - 3:15 pm: Part 1
Guests: Irene Campolmi, Fabrizio Gallanti, Dawit L. Petros

3:15 - 3:25 pm: Break

3:25 - 4:30 pm: Part 2
Guests: Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Francesco Filippi, Dawit L. Petros

4:30 - 5:00 pm: Concluding remarks and friendly cocktail hour

Locations

Casa d'Italia, 505 Jean-Talon E Street
Online on Zoom
+ More information : galerie.uqam.ca

About the round table

From the series *L'art observe*

For the final days of the exhibition *Dawit L. Petros. Spazio Disponibile*, Galerie de l'UQAM and the Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal are pleased to invite you to a round table moderated by Marisa Portolese which brings together artist Dawit L. Petros, curator Irene Campolmi, as well as Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, Francesco Filippi, and Fabrizio Gallanti, experts in geopolitical and architectural issues related to the Italian colonial history in East Africa.

Through open and multilingual exchanges (French, English, Italian), the guests will fuel the discussions surrounding the exhibition by addressing the historical, geographical, and cultural perspectives specific to its Montreal iteration. Complex matters such as the role and impact of monuments on collective memory will be considered within the walls of the Casa d'Italia, this landmark building established in 1936 on Jean-Talon Street whose strong symbolism is featured in Petros' work *All at one point (Casa, Study I)*.

The panels will also focus on past and present migratory trajectories. The expertise of the speakers on these subjects will shed light on how new population movements bring up repressed histories. These critical explorations ultimately aim to engage with local audiences and communities to give voice to their stories and experiences.

The round table will be followed by a friendly cocktail hour.

Biographies

Irene Campolmi is a Copenhagen-based curator. Her current research investigates postcolonial, queer, and feminist theories through performance and hybrid artistic ecologies. She has worked as an independent curator and a researcher for ten years within art museums and institutions across the world, including Musée d'art de Joliette (Canada), The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery (Toronto, Canada), MAAT (Lisbon, Portugal), Copenhagen Contemporary (Denmark), MAH (Azores, Portugal), and Kunsthal Charlottenborg (Copenhagen, Denmark). irenecampolmi.com

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar is a historian born in Asmara (Eritrea). He has dealt mainly with the history of the Horn of Africa and in particular Eritrea and Ethiopia in the colonial period. His research focuses on the processes of forming local elites and the development of nationalist ideologies. Since 2003, Uoldelul Chelati Dirar is Associate Professor of African History in the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Macerata (Italy). Between 2010 and 2016, Dirar has also served as Vice-Chancellor for International Relations at the Unvierstiy of Macerata.

Fabrizio Gallanti is a curator and architect with experience in architectural design, education, publication, and exhibitions. In the fall of 2020, he was appointed director of arc en rêve—centre d'architecture in Bordeaux, France. He currently teaches at the School of Architecture of McGill University and Université de Montréal, and at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London. From 2011 to 2014, he was the Associate Director of Programs at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal.

Dawit L. Petros is a visual artist, researcher, and educator. Petros' work is informed by studies of global modernisms, theories of diaspora, and postcolonial studies. Throughout the past decade, he has focused on a critical re-reading of the entanglements between colonialism and modernity. These concerns derive from lived experiences as an Eritrean emigrant, having spent formative years in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Kenya before settling in central Canada. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Photography at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.
dawitlpetros.com

Francesco Filippi is a historian specialized in history of mentalities and a teacher at Deina, a social promotion organization. He published *Mussolini ha fatto anche cose buone. Le idiozie che continuano a circolare sul fascismo* (2019), *Ma perché siamo ancora fascisti? Un conto rimasto aperto* (2020), and *Noi però gli abbiamo fatto le strade. Le colonie italiane tra bugie, razzismi e amnesie* (2021) by Bollati Boringhieri. The book *Mussolini ha fatto anche cose buone* has been translated in English by Baraka Books and in French by Vuibert.

Marisa Portolese is an Italian Canadian, visual artist born in Montreal (Canada). She has produced many photographic projects, which have received critical acclaim and have been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions across Canada, Europe and the United States. She has also published three monographs: *Un Chevreuil à la Fenêtre de ma Chambre* (2003), *Antonia's Garden* (2012) and *In the Studio with Notman* (2018). Portraiture, representations of women, autobiography, figures in nature, familial and cultural heritage are recurrent subjects in her artistic practice.
marisaportolese.com