



Raffaella Naldi Rossano

I Confess

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“I confess” is the sentence that introduces artist Raffaella Naldi Rossano’s installation at der TANK. Based in Naples, Raffaella is linked to the Art Institute HGK FHNW in many ways, from her participation in the Venice Summer School to her hosting of students in Naples, where she has initiated and runs an artist residency program.

I Confess is a project that reflects on materials and how they affect our memory. Imagine you’re having a great time with your friends. It’s a sunny day. You visit the market and you start to touch the king of lemons. The touch produces a memory and a sense of the day; it enhances the facts. It can also be that to touch the skin of the king of lemons is to produce a sense of reality, of place, of weather, of freshness, of a direct connection both with nature and tradition. You decide that you should always be around lemons. In that moment, the touch of the lemon on that day with your friends is no longer a memory but a real trigger, an important part of who you are today, of your identity. Materials, forms, colors, smells and our relationship to them are fundamental to our understanding of ourselves.

For her new, specially commissioned installation at der TANK, Raffaella has created a distilled version of all these impressions we receive from life. There is a sculpture-skin and a sculpture-roof and a text-window and a sound-music... All of them inhabit a concrete cube, which serves as both an exhibition space and a sculpture workshop. It is for this matter that she chose these elements, the elements that she did in her workshop, at home and transported them here, to der TANK—a space that promises a certain neutrality, because of its square form and the transparency of the glass, but is actually no less than a roof, a shelter, a home to all the sculptures being made here. It is as if Raffaella wanted to tell der TANK about all the lemons in the world, about the memories that spaces possess and how the memories of her house, herself, her city merge with the memories of a space that seems “outside” of tradition, casted by architects in a new part of the city of Basel. But also, how moving to be able to be touched by all the artworks and the people. At times, we accept the space as a test site; at others, as an exhibition space.

In all of her works Raffaella asks herself and us a simple question: Is it “possible to observe [...] life in [the] process of revising itself?” (Lionel Trilling *Sincerity and Authenticity*, 1972). I would say her answer is affirmative. Yes, art allows us to revisit and remember life by forgetting its linear narrative and by proposing the artwork’s experience as life in a more monumental dimension. To be concerned as an artist with such transformations is fundamental. Referring to Trilling once more: Raffaella’s art explores the process by which the tedious concern of sincerity, of being true to one’s self, is crucial to our public life—and how that place can be so easily occupied by the darker and even more arduous modern ideal of authenticity.

Chus Martínez

Raffaella Naldi Rossano

Raffaella Naldi Rossano (born in Naples) lives and works in Naples. She graduated at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2016 with a research called *Say Hello Back to a Phantomatic Present: Perform Heritage and Inhabit History*, following her BA studies in Psychology. She aims to investigate possibilities and boundaries around relationships and intimacy, both psychologically and socio-economically, through processes of transformation. With her work she intends to present in between spaces and to provoke insights on hidden and suppressed histories, through installations which incorporates a range of mediums from found objects to video, sculpture, sound, text and performance, in order to create and re-create meanings, individually and collectively. Raffaella Naldi Rossano is founder of Residency 80121, a residency project, artist-run space and library, which aims to create a platform to explore and exhibit alternative ways of inhabit home in her motherland Naples. Recent exhibitions include: *Doing Deculturalization*, Museion, Bozen (2019); *Partenope*, Aetopoulos, Athens (2019); *You Complete Me*, Museo Apparente, Naples (2018); and *May the bridges I burn light the way*, Manifesta 5x5x5, Palermo (2018).

List of works

I Confess, 2019
Site specific installation

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Transition I, 2019
Rubber, textile, copper, organic materials,
2.43 x 2.09 x 7 cm

Transition II, 2019
Rubber, organic materials, iron structure,
2.43 x 2.09 x 7 cm

Transition III, 2019
Rubber, textile, pigment,
2.43 x 2.09 x 7 cm

Transportable Shelter, 2019
Two parts composed by ceramics tiles, ceramic ornaments,
organic materials, iron structure, paint,
2.3 x 100 x 28 cm

Bonding SKUR, 2019
Shutters, cotton threads, cement,
3.1 x 1.2 x 10 cm

*We are the granddaughters of the witches you
were never able to burn*, 2019
56 ceramic letters, chalk,
dimensions variable

A liquid confession, 2019
Ceramic, organic materials and liquid,
29 x 90 x 45 cm

Found In Between, 2019
Bronze,
85 x 16 x 24 cm

Femminello Buoy I – VI, 2019
Resin, ceramic, textile, organic materials,
125 x 70 x 15 cm each

Kindness will save us, 2019
Multichannel audio piece, 30', loop,
conceived by Raffaella Naldi Rossano, sound contribution
by Raffaella Naldi Rossano & Renato Grieco, text by
Raffaella Naldi Rossano, sound design by Renato Grieco



**Raffaella Naldi
Rossano
I Confess**

**Opening
8 November 2019, 6 pm
Exhibition
9 - 17 November 2019**

**Technical support:
Patrick Doggweiler,
Konrad Sigl
Technical assistance:
Jeronim Horvat
Press and
communication:
Anna Francke
Graphic design:
Ana Domínguez,
Juan Areizaga**

**Picone and everyone
from Villa Toma passing
through Via Crispi and
Via Martucci to La Regina
Giovanna.**

**der TANK
Campus of the Arts
Freilager-Platz, Basel
der-tank.institut-kunst.ch**

**Curated by
Chus Martínez
Curatorial
Assistance
Marion Ritzmann**

**Opening hours
Saturdays and
Sundays, 2 - 6 pm
And by appointment:
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**Art Taaalkssss
Thursday, 14 November
2019, 5.30 pm
Tower Building
Auditorium D 1.04**

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