

Asad Raza: Plot

feat. BB (Fabrizio Ballabio, Alessandro Bava)
+ Lydia Ourahmane, and Moriah Evans

25.03.2023 – 03.09.2023

Curated by Leonie Radine

Press conference: 23.03.2023, 11 a.m.

Opening: 24.03.2023, 7 p.m.

An exhibition in chapters:

Chapter I – Absorption	from 25.03.2023
Chapter II – 20 × 10 × 5	from 26.05.2023
Chapter III – Out of and Into: Plot	on 27./28.07.2023*
Chapter IV – Reabsorption	from 22.08.2023
Epilogue	on 08.09.2023

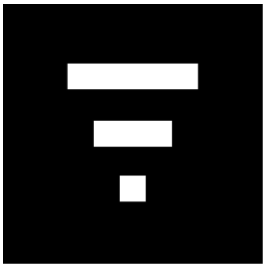
*realized in collaboration with Bolzano Danza

Bolzano, 06 March 2023 – Museion, Bolzano's museum of modern and contemporary art, presents *Plot*, an interdisciplinary and processual exhibition by the artist Asad Raza featuring the architects BB (Fabrizio Ballabio, Alessandro Bava), artist Lydia Ourahmane, and choreographer Moriah Evans.

With *Plot*, Museion explores new ground for experiential and collaborative practices of exhibition-making. By establishing a dialogue between visual art, science, architecture, dance, and local participants with a strong relation to soil, the project draws on and generates situated knowledge.

Raza's exhibition stems from his site-specific installation *Absorption* and his evolving video work *Ge*. *Absorption* will fill the second floor of Museion with more than 60 tons of artificial "neosoil" in collaboration with soil scientists and a "soil coordinator" sourcing local materials and waste products, including clay, grape marc, marble dust, coffee grounds, pizza oven ash, human hair, and more. These materials will be mixed, turned over, and continually added to by a group of cultivators, who will also offer visitors fertile neosoil to take home for their own projects and cultivations.

Raza's work often acts as a host to other artist's interventions: in *Plot* the artist offers the entire mise-en-scène to other practitioners to develop their own temporal chapters. Thus, the piece will undergo successive metamorphoses, starting from the first day of



the exhibition. The former library of Museion will become a storehouse of soil ingredients and a workshop setting where neosoil is transformed into mud bricks, laying the groundwork for the second chapter of the plot.

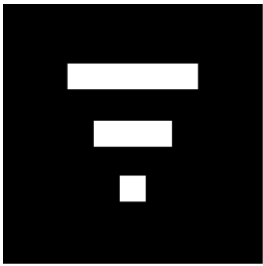
In Chapter II, the architects BB (Fabrizio Ballabio, Alessandro Bava), together with artist Lydia Ourahmane, will employ these bricks to explore the concept of “dwelling”, investigating building techniques that originated in Egypt and that are still used to this day. Together with a brickmaker, they will use this sustainable material to construct a prototype for a small structure, referencing various enclosures, from mountain bivouacs to Renaissance “sacelli” sanctuaries, and shelters in the Algerian desert.

In Chapter III, this hybrid environment will become the setting for Moriah Evans’ Italian debut, in collaboration with Bolzano Danza. *Out of and Into: PLOT* references both her most recent work *Remains Persist* (2022), about various types of information that live differently in each of our bodies, and one of her earliest works *Out of and Into (8/8): STUFF* (2012) which explores tropes of the “hysterical” body through expressive play. By focusing on the processes of decay and resurgence, her piece reabsorbs the detritus and fertile remnants of her practice into a new site-specific iteration.

In Chapter IV, *Plot*’s narrative returns to *Absorption*. The mud bricks will be decomposed back into the neosoil and the cultivators will return, working to rebalance the soil’s chemistry, making sure it becomes fertile once more. During this phase of the exhibition, visitors are invited to take as much neosoil as they please.

Meanwhile, in a parallel narrative, Raza’s evolving video work *Ge* is screened for the duration of the exhibition. *Ge*, whose title refers to the original name of Gaia, maps various biotopes of Earth, functioning as an ongoing poetic journal and meditation. The first “stanza” of this open-ended work explores the seaside landscape around the cottage of James Lovelock, who developed the theory that the earth is a self-regulating, living system. The second provides a recipe for making artificial soil at home. Over the course of *Plot*, *Ge* will evolve further, with the appearance of new “stanzas”, set on Lake Erie, at the ruined convent of Hildegard von Bingen, and elsewhere.

The title *Plot*, which can describe a piece of land, a (floor) plan, and the turns and twists of a narrative, alludes to the exhibition’s various conceptual dimensions. Like the plot of a novel, the exhibition evolves in different chapters, each one creating poetic and sensual encounters between natural, artificial, living and non-living entities,



and a sense of porosity between bodies, architecture, and landscape.

In the epilogue, during the Long Night of Museums on September 8th, the neosoil that remains will be brought to *Museion Passage* and gifted to the visitors, seeding new landscapes and sequels.

Asad Raza

With his work, Asad Raza (*1974 in Buffalo, USA, lives in Berlin) conceives of art as a metabolic, active experience and initiates dialogues between disciplines. *Absorption* was the 34th Kaldor Public Art Project in Sydney (2019) and later hosted at Gropius Bau, Berlin (2020), the Ruhrtriennale in Essen (2021), and the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow (2022).

With *Diversion* (2022), he diverted the Main River through the Kunsthalle Portikus in Frankfurt, and filtered it for visitors to drink. In *Untitled (plot for dialogue)* (2017), visitors played tennis in a sixteenth-century Milanese church. *Root sequence. Mother tongue* at the 2017 Whitney Biennial combined 26 trees, people caring for them and cherished objects of theirs. *Schema for a school* was an experimental school at the 2015 Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts. His film *Minor History* premiered in 2019 at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. Raza studied literature and filmmaking at John Hopkins University and New York University.

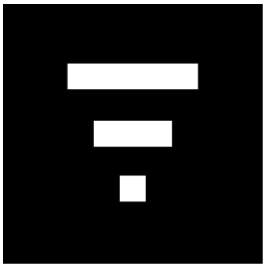
BB – design studio founded in 2022 and led by Fabrizio Ballabio and Alessandro Bava in Milan.

Alessandro Bava (b. 1988 in Naples, Italy) is an architect living in Milan, where he founded the project space zaza' in 2022. After graduating from the Architectural Association in London with Pier Vittorio Aureli, he was a member of åyr, an art collective dealing with sharing economy and domesticity, and was editor of ECOCORE, an ecology magazine. In 2022 he was guest curator of issue 2 of PROspectives, the academic journal of the B-Pro program at Bartlett School of Architecture - UCL, London. His interdisciplinary and collaborative work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, the Berlin Biennale, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, the Fondation Cartier in Paris, the Moderna Museet in Stockholm and at the Quadriennale in Rome.

Fabrizio Ballabio (*1986 in Naples, Italy) is an architect and researcher based in Milan. He graduated in Switzerland from the Academy of Architecture USI in Mendrisio (AAM), received his master's degree from the Architectural Association in London, and holds a PhD in the History of Art from the University of York. Alongside practicing as BB, Ballabio is a teaching associate at the AAM in the chair of Kersten Geers, and a founding editor of the academic journal STOÀ – Tools for Architectural Design Pedagogies. Between 2014 and 2019, he was a founding member of åyr—an art collective focusing on the themes of the sharing economy and domesticity.

Lydia Ourahmane

Lydia Ourahmane (*1992 in Saïda, Algeria) is an artist based in Algiers and Barcelona. Ourahmane's research-driven practice spans spirituality, contemporary geopolitics, migration, and the complex histories of colonialism. She incorporates video, sound, performance, sculpture, and installation on an often large or monumental scale. Her recent solo exhibitions include: *sync*, KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin; *Tassili*, SculptureCenter, NY and Louis Vuitton Foundation, Paris (2022), *Survival in the afterlife*, Portikus, Frankfurt, and De Appel, Amsterdam (2021); *Barzakh*, Kunsthalle Basel, Triangle – Astérides, Marseille, S.M.A.K. Ghent (2021-2022); and شمسية صرخة *Solar Cry*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (2020), among others. Her work



was included in the 34th Bienal de São Paulo (2021) and the New Museum Triennial (2018).

Moriah Evans

Moriah Evans positions choreography as a speculative and social process. Developing movement from the unseen, yet felt, worlds of a body's material and affective interior, Evans' projects question hierarchies between flesh, body, self, and subject. Evans maintains a multi-pronged approach to her art practice, creating site-specific performances, theater-based productions, museum-based installations, symposia, texts, and curatorial projects. Recent works include: *Remains Persist* at Performance Space New York (2022); *Rehearsals for Rehearsal* under the Public Art Fund, New York (2022); *RESTOS* at Espacio Odeon, Bogota, Colombia (2021); *REPOSE* at Beach Sessions, New York (2021); *Be my Muse* at Pace Live, New York (2021); *Configure* at The Kitchen, New York (2018) and *Figuring* at SculptureCenter, New York (2018).

Exhibition information

Asad Raza: Plot

feat. BB (Fabrizio Ballabio, Alessandro Bava) + Lydia Ourahmane, and Moriah Evans

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 18 pm

Thursdays, 10 am – 10 pm. Closed on Monday.

€10,00 full price

€5,00 reduced price (Age 65+, students, guest card, Fai, Italia Nostra, MART, Ferdinandeum)

€ 7,00 special reduced price (one or more exhibition floors under construction)

€ 3,50 special reduced price (Age 65+, students, guest card, Fai, Italia Nostra, MART, Ferdinandeum)

Museion Press Office

Mara Vicino

t. +39 0471 223439

m. +39 337 1250198

mara.vicino@museion.it

International Press Office

Send / Receive

Anne Maier

T. +49 170 29 07 585

anne@sendreceive.eu

National Press Office

Lara Facco P&C

+39 02 36565133 | press@larafacco.com

Lara Facco | M. +39 349 2529989 | E. lara@larafacco.com

Claudia Santrolli | M. +39 339 7041657 | E. claudia@larafacco.com