

HYPERMAREMMA

ISE HYPER—
COMMUNICATIVE

Francesco Arena *La Spiaggia*

Opening Monday, March 31st, 2025
From 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Open until Friday, April 4th
Fonderia Artistica Battaglia
Via Privata Oslavia 17, Milano
Coordinates: 45.4832379, 9.2476096

On the occasion of Milan Art Week, Hypermaremma is pleased to present an environmental installation by Francesco Arena, featuring the latest bronze works created at the historic Fonderia Artistica Battaglia, exceptionally open to the public for the occasion. The installation stands as a preview of the large-scale sculptural intervention envisioned by the artist for the VII Edition of Hypermaremma.

Within the spaces of Fonderia Battaglia, where the production process took place, several bronze pieces from *La Spiaggia* – a limited edition work created for the event – will shape an environment evoking the atmospheres of Maremma Toscana.

La Spiaggia replicates a seashell, on whose surface eleven embossed letters form the word “moltitudine” (multitude). However, when used as a sand mold—similar to those children play with on the shore—and filled with damp sand before being reversed, the negative shape transforms into a positive one, where ten embossed letters spell “solitudine” (solitude). The artwork thus embodies this duality. The single bronze piece, solid and enduring, carries “multitude”, as it can be used endlessly to create countless sand forms. At the same time, however, each positive shape exists in its own “solitude” destined to disintegrate into the fleeting nature of its element, sand, a multitude in itself, formed by the solitude of its infinitesimal yet indestructible grains.

In collaboration with Fonderia Artistica Battaglia and Galleria Raffaella Cortese.

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Biography and general information

Francesco Arena was born in 1978 in Puglia, the region where he still resides. He creates sculptures and installations in which he develops the formal and conceptual legacy of the artistic movements of the 1960s, such as American Minimal Art and Italian Arte Povera. Arena reinterprets these movements through his own biographical and intellectual experiences, in a coagulation and layering of intentions and images, as he himself has described his approach. Recurring themes in his work are collective contemporary history and its repercussions and connections with the biographical realm, both personal and others'. A distinctive feature of his modus operandi is the use of numbers and measurements; these objective data are employed to interpret political and historical events without mythologizing them, but rather to stimulate reflection and curiosity in the observer. Permanent public works by the artist are hosted in locations such as the Archaeological Park of the Colosseum, the Khao Yai Art Forest, and the Apulian town of Parabita. Arena has exhibited at various centers, museum institutions, and galleries, including the Bangkok Art Biennale, Bangkok; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila; MAXXI, Rome; 58th Venice Biennale, Venice; CaixaForum, Barcelona; Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen; Unlimited Art Basel, Basel; Fondazione Merz, Turin; Triennale di Milano, Milan; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Sprovieri, London; Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan.

Hypermaremma was established in 2019 as a widespread art festival in the Maremma region with a program that extends throughout the year. Founded as a Social Promotion Association by Carlo Pratis, Giorgio Galotti, and Matteo d'Aloja, it aims to involve the lower Maremma through the intervention of contemporary artists who, invited to engage with the territory and its history, are capable of triggering a reinterpretation of the landscape and the atmosphere of the place, leaving a mark that contributes to cultural tourism and the activation of synergies and collaborations with the local community and local artisans. Hypermaremma enhances the territory through works that highlight portions of the landscape as an open-air, widespread museum. The works produced by Hypermaremma are exclusively located in places without territorial or time constraints, accessible at any time of day or night. In Hypermaremma's curatorial approach, the dialogue between place and artistic intervention is essential: the landscape becomes an integral part of the work and, very often, of its meaning.