HYPERMAREMMA

IS HYPER—
COMMUNICATIVE

"L'unique chose stable c'est le mouvement, partout et toujours."
Jean Tinguely

Francesco Arena
La dodicesima altalena

Opening Saturday, June 28th, 2025
At 18.30
Terre di Sacra
Strada Origlio 84, Capalbio Scalo
Coordinates: 42.408472, 11.377389

Hypermaremma is pleased to announce Francesco Arena's new site-specific intervention, *La dodicesima altalena*, opening on Saturday, June 28th in Capalbio Scalo.

A circular structure composed of twelve swings suspended on the horizon of a hill. At once playful and conceptual, the work is meant to be experienced, activated through thought and movement, like a device of imagination rising from the Maremma landscape.

Each of the swing seats was produced at Fonderia Battaglia in Milan – one of the oldest artistic foundries in Europe. Eleven of them, cast in bronze, are inscribed with statements: truths penned by the artist or drawn from the writings of historically significant figures. Engraved in bronze, the quintessential material of monuments, these statements convey a sense of absoluteness, immediately challenged by the presence of the *twelfth* swing. This final swing disrupts any univocal notion of truth, defusing its definitive character. In this semantic short circuit, the playful act of swinging invites viewers to inhabit shifting horizons. An experience that is both physical and conceptual, offering a sense of freedom suspended between the physicality of movement and the autonomy of thought.

The connection between art and the human being, a recurring theme in Arena's practice, finds here a new expression, in resonance with the spirit of Hypermaremma.

Special thanks to Fonderia Artistica Battaglia, Milan; Mar.Sid.; Terre di Sacra; Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan.

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Hypermaremma
Associazione di promozione sociale
via delle Mimose 133, 58015 Orbetello (GR)
P.IVA e C.F. 01680040530

www.hypermaremma.com
Facebook, Instagram: (at)hypermaremma
info(at)hypermaremma.com

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Biography and general informations

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 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 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 major art institutions such as the Bangkok Art Biennale; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Metropolitan Museum of Manila; MAXXI, Rome; Museo Madre, Naples; 55th Venice Biennale; CaixaForum, Barcelona; Kunstmuseum St. Gallen; Unlimited, Art Basel; Fondazione Merz, Turin; Triennale di Milano; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Fondazione del Roscio, Rome; Sprovieri, London; Galleria Raffaella Cortese, Milan; Fonderia Artistica Battaglia, Milan; and Bar Cremona.

Hypermaremma was established in 2019 as a wide spread art festival in the Maremma region with a programme that stretches all year long. 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.

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