



**THE SEVERED
LANGUAGE**

**Nanni Balestrini
Gianni Pettena
Gianni Emilio Simonetti**

curated by
Manuela Gandini

opening
Thursday 4 April, 2019
at 6.30 pm

**4.4.2019
7.6.2019**

+ performance *Darkness*
by Sergio Racanati
23.5.2019 at 7 pm

LAURA BULIAN GALLERY
via Piranesi 10, 20137 Milano
www.laurabuliangallery.com

Monday – Friday, 15 – 19 pm
Morning by appointment
Free entrance

against abuse convention the emptying of meaning / no longer dominated and dominant but force against force / to make the reader a participant by resetting language / a sequence of images fired like slogans / the attack must be meticulously prepared / from a revolutionary perspective / from a revolutionary perspective / another world is appearing / the attack must be meticulously prepared / no longer dominated and dominant but force against force / you can hear the sonorous rip / new life comes running through the blood.

[Nanni Balestrini, *Preliminary Instruction*]

from a revolutionary perspective

The exhibition *The severed Language* deals with the fragmentation of language aimed at re-create alternative imaginations and new relationships of meaning. **Nanni Balestrini, Gianni Pettena** and **Gianni Emilio Simonetti** have different poetic languages and practices, but since the sixties each has worked towards subverting language by taking phrases and words from newspapers, manuals, comics, institutions and adverts to transform them into bodies that are foreign to their original context.

to make the reader participate by resetting language

Through *diversion* and sabotage the three artists reuse texts and reinvent contexts generating works of counter-information through the visual and poetic mutilation of the official narrative. Literature, architecture, cuisine, music, video and performance are the territories transversally crossed by Balestrini, Pettena and Simonetti against a background of glowing news and daily apocalypses in small episodes. “Syntax – said John Cage – like government, can only be obeyed. It is therefore of no use...”. Marcel Duchamp thought likewise, considering language to be “an error of humanity”.

the attack must be meticulously prepared

If the ordinary nature of the word is representation, it is rhetoric, bureaucracy, deception, terror, guilt, persuasion; the artists disrupt the progress of this

narrative, reversing its logic and order. Balestrini cuts out newspaper headlines causing verbal-visual explosions; Simonetti brings about an unveiling of social symptoms through enigmatic and subversive written instructions: fragmented, illustrated, cooked, set to music; Pettena physically places institutional words with a human dimension into the context of the city – for example “Grazia & Giustizia”, “The Unknown Soldier” and “Carabinieri” – which reify their symbolism and monotonous horizon architecturally.

no longer dominated and dominant but force against force

With the Futurists, Dada, and Argon’s *Suicide* – which reduces poetry to the alphabet – and with Lettrism, the letter becomes an image, a splinter, a detail, a physical body, an abstraction.

The linguistic micro-catastrophes caused by the critique of capital are spread through the political space of art among visual poets, performers and feminist artists.

you can hear the sonorous rip

The exhibited works, from the seventies and today, give insight into the dissonance of language, the insubordination and mutation of meaning, revealing the use and abuse of language with humour or dramatic emphasis. Today, that language has been contracted by social media and impoverished by politics; it has been emptied, cut, massacred and torn to pieces in revenge.

another world is appearing

Sergio Racanati is both a witness and a protagonist of another world that is dawning. Through a hyper-contemporary cross-media language, he creates a *deviation* by deconstructing collective images of daily apocalypses. Like a surgeon operating a terminally ill patient, Racanati works on social afflictions and on the hybridization of body and machine, biology and technology, production and dissolution.

Selected shows

Nanni Balestrini (1935, Italy)

2018 *Nanni Balestrini. Vogliamo tutto. Opere anni '70 e '80*, Palazzo Ducale, Massa, Italy; *Tutto. Prospettive sull'arte italiana*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy — **2017** *Poetic Expansions: Nanni Balestrini - For anyone reading this there is nothing left to fear*, ZKM Zentrum für Kunst und Medien, Karlsruhe, Germany; *La tempesta perfetta*, Museo D'Arte Contemporanea, Roma, Italy; *Nanni Balestrini. Ottobre rosso*, Fondazione Mudima, Milano, Italy; *Arte ribelle 1968-1978. Artisti e gruppi dal Sessantotto*, Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese, Refettorio delle Stelline, Milan, Italy; *Tv 70: Francesco Vezzoli guarda la Rai*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy — **2016** *Nanni Balestrini. Colonne verbali*, Museo Novecento, Florence, Italy; *Unarchivable / L'Inarchiviabile. Italia anni 70, FM Centro per l'Arte contemporanea*, Milan, Italy; *La parola agli artisti. Arte e impegno a Milano negli anni '70*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Lissone, Italy; *Da un'avanguardia all'altra. Esperienze verso-visive tra Gruppo 63 e Gruppo 70*, Centro Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, La Spezia, Italy; *Roma Pop City. 60-67*, Macro Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy; *Nanni Balestrini. Vogliamo tutto. Opere anni '70 e '80*, Fondazione Mudima, Milan, Italy — **2014** *Dominare il visibile*, Fondazione Marconi, Milan, Italy; *Una poesia totale*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy; *La scrittura visuale*, Fondazione Morra, Napoli, Italy — **2013** *Tristanoil*, Fondazione Morra, Napoli / Palazzo Ducale, Genova / Magazzini del sale, Venice, Italy; *Gruppo 63, Arte totale*, Auditorium, Rome / Fondazione Marconi, Milan, Italy — **2012** *Tristanoil*, Documenta, Kassel, Germany / Fondazione Marconi, Milan / Museo Macro, Rome, Italy — **2011** *Sulla parola, Fabbriche Chiamomontane*, Arte Moderna Galleria Permanente, Agrigento, Italy; *Laboratorio da verso*, Accademia di Brera, Milan, Italy — **2010** *Plis*, Museo Civico, Brunico, Italy — **2009** *Cosanguineosavoivedere*, Fondazione Morra, Napoli, Italy; *Futurismo 1909-2009*, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy; *Italian genius now*, Macro Future, Rome, Italy; *Mille e tre*, Musée du Louvre, Paris, France — **2008** *1988 vent'anni prima vent'anni dopo*, Centro Pecci, Prato, Italy; *Italics*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy; *La parola mostra il suo corpo*, Museo Accattino, Ivrea, Italy — **2007** *Con gli occhi del linguaggio*, Pinacoteca di Bologna, Bologna, Italy; *La parola e l'arte*, MaRT, Rovereto, Italy — **2006** *Con gli occhi del linguaggio*, Fondazione Mudima, Milan, Italy; *Italy made art: now*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China; *Viva*, Centro Pecci, Prato, Italy; *Dadada*, Castello Visconteo, Pavia, Italy.

Gianni Pettena (1940, Italy)

2018 *Starting from the desert, Ecologies on the edge*, II° Yinchuan Biennale, Yinchuan, China; *Utopie radicali. Firenze 1966-1976*, CCA, Montreal, Canada; *TUTTO. Prospettive sull'arte italiana*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy — **2017** *TV70. Francesco Vezzoli guarda la Rai*, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy; *Da Duchamp a Cattelan. L'arte contemporanea al Palatino*, Foro Palatino, Rome, Italy; *L'air vibre du bourdonnement des insectes*, MoCA, Rochechouart, France; *Arte ribelle, Artisti e gruppi del Sessantotto*, Palazzo delle Stelline, Milan, Italy; *Musée en oeuvre(s)*, Centro Pompidou, Paris, France; *Utopie radicali. Oltre l'architettura. Firenze 1966-1976*, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy — **2016** *Allures, Les Turbulences*, Frac Centre, Orléans, France; *La ville au loin*, Frac Centre, Orléans, France; *The Family of the Invisibles*, Seul Museum of Arts (SeMA), Séul, Corea; *L'Inarchiviabile*, FM Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy; *Un Art Pauvre*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; *La fine del mondo*, Centro Pecci, Prato, Italy — **2015** *Soleil politique. Il museo tra luce e ombra*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy; *Rumeur du Météor*, Frac Lorraine, Metz, France; *Reliefs- Designing the Horizon*, Les Turbulences, Frac Centre, Orléans, France; *Beyond Environment*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Lissone, Italy — **2014** *Le statue calde*, Museo Marino Marini, Florence, Italy; *Gianni Pettena. Architecture ondoyante*, Frac Lorraine, Metz, France; *Double Jeu. Artists and Architects*, Frac Center Collection, Orléans, France — **2013** *Gianni Pettena. Forgiven by Nature*, UMoCA, Salt Lake City, USA; *Gares et connexion. 30 ans de Frac*, Gare d'Austerlitz,

Paris, France; *Parole, Parole, Parole...Arte nell'epoca della comunicazione*, Museo Pecci, Milan, Italy — **2012** *Radical City*, Archivio di Stato, Torino, Italy; *Véhicules rêvés*, Frac Centre, Orléans, France — **2011** *Performing Architecture*, CCA, Ujazdowski Castle, Varsavia, Poland; *Erre. Variations Labirintiques*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, France — **2010** *Monolithes, ou l'architecture en suspens*, Frac Centre, Orléans, France; *Italian genius now. Home sweet home*, Padiglione Italia, Expo 2010, Shanghai, China; *The living currency*, HAU1 Berlin, VI Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany; *Quali cose siamo*, Triennale Design Museum, Milan, Italy; *Gianni Pettena*, Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato, Italy; *Ibrido*, PAC, Milan, Italy; *Il grande gioco. Forme d'arte in Italia 1947-1989*, Lissone / Rotonda di via Besana, Milano/ GAMEC, Bergamo, Italy — **2009** *Arte del quotidiano. Un percorso tra arte e design*, Fondazione Ragghianti, Luca, Italy; *ReMap 2*, Athen Biennale, Greece — **2008** *Principle Hope. Manifesta 07*, Ex-Peterlini, Rovereto, Italy; *Sguardo periferico e corpo collettivo*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy; *Video.It 9*, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy — **2007** *Il Futuro del Futurismo*, GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy — **2006** *Future City. Experiment and Utopia in Architecture 1956-2006*, Barbican Center, London, U.K. — **2005** *New Experiments in Architecture, Art and the City, 1950-2005*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan.

Gianni Emilio Simonetti (1940, Italy)

2018 *Fluxus in Paris. Rereading John Cage, performance*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France — **2017** *Arte Ribelle*, curated by Marco Meneguzzo, Galleria Gruppo Credito Valtellinese, Milan, Italy; *Idioma*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy — **2016** *Versus - La Sfida Dell'artista Al Suo Modello In Un Secolo Di Fotografia e Disegno*, Galleria Civica di Modena, Modena, Italy — **2015** *Fluxus multitasking concert - performance*, Museo Ma.Ga., Gallarate, Italy; *Drinking a young woman in...*, Gallarate, Museo Ma.Ga., Gallarate, Italy; *Ennesima - An Exhibition of Seven Exhibitions on Italian Art*, La Triennale Design Museum, Milan, Italy; *Maurizio Nannucci - Top Hundred*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy — **2014** *Fluxfood Concert in Venice. A Multitasking performance*, Palazzo Mora, Venice, Italy — **2013** *The Female side of FluxusMusic. The Concert - performance*, Fondazione Palazzo Magnani, Reggio Emilia, Italy; *Index G: Bolte*, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Lissone, Lissone, Italy — **2012** *Fluxus Concert*, Museo della Carale, Ivrea, Italy; *Fluxus Events: An Anthology I & II and FluxDinner - performance*, Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy; *The Small Utopia. Ars Multiplicata*, Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy; *Fluxus Concert - performance*, M.A.X. Museo, nell'ambito di "Fluxus. Una rivoluzione creativa: 1962-2012", Chiasso, Italy; *Addio Anni '70*, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy — **2000** *Sentieri Interrotti. Crisi Della Rappresentazione e Iconoclastia nelle Arti Dagli Anni Cinquanta Alla Fine Del Secolo*, Museo Civico Bassano del Grappa, Bassano del Grappa, Italy.

Special thanks to

Art Forum Arte contemporanea, Fondazione Bonotto, Fondazione Mudima, Galleria Bonelli, Galleria Frittelli.