



**The end and the beginning.
Objects, processes, trajectories.**

Workshop with Stefano Romano

OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

We are happy to host The Mobile School of Visual Arts in Split!

The Mobile School of Visual Arts is an art project based on the idea of art as the production of knowledge and active participation. In these terms, the project is based on the paradox of participatory teaching, namely attempting to define what we do not yet know. The project was founded in 2022 by artist Stefano Romano and until now has had its editions in Genova, Bergamo and Tirana.

Read more about the project.

We invite artists and art students to participate in a workshop led by artist Stefano Romano. The workshop will take place in Split, from 6th to 11th May 2024 and will result in a group exhibition (on view 15 - 24/5 in Prostor, Split). The workshop is free of charge. Participants from outside of Split can apply to receive a financial contribution of 250 eur.

Applications [here](#) until May 1st, 23:59 PM.

The workshop will be held in English.

About the workshop

This term “deviation” indicates those behaviors that deviate from a norm or system of rules; in particular, in sociology, it indicates non-conformity to the normative standards of the group or social subgroup to which one belongs, and more generally, non-conformity to the standards of the dominant group. It therefore has a negative meaning in the common way of thinking.

Yet today we very often use the idea of “deviance” to seek solutions to issues that, when tackled with the dominant approaches, do not find ones. We speak of “lateral thinking”, an expression coined by Edward De Bono in 1967¹ and widely used today to indicate the ability to solve problems by following an unconventional path not based on rational logic. To use an unconventional path means precisely to deviate from the main path, to get off an already codified and already investigated track and to look 'elsewhere'; it has to do with the concepts of exploration and contingency.

The workshop therefore intends to work around this idea of deviance starting from the notion of “waste”. In common language, waste is what we throw away after having consumed it or after having consumed a part of it. Waste is therefore also linked to the consumption we make of the things that surround us every day; and the more we consume, the more we produce waste, which inevitably also impacts the environment in which we live.

However, waste also represents the *difference*, the *detachment* expressible in numerical values between two subjects, and it is precisely this notion of detachment and difference that will be the focus of the workshop.

Workshop participants will be invited to walk around the city of Split and collect an object thrown away by someone in order to build a new narrative on it. This will allow them to investigate the possibilities of reducing entropy in objects of consumption through new narratives. Identifying new energies that can renew the object by deviating it from its official narrative, bringing it out of the chain of consumption by elevating it to a symbolic object. The end result can be in the visual art domain, multimedia or writing.

Workshop schedule:

6/5	7/5 - 11/5	13-14/5	15/5
10:00-13:00 Presentation of the workshop and participants. 16:00-19:00 Walk in Split to find the scraps.	10:00-13:00 16:00-19:00 Working on creating new narrations for the scraps.	Installing the exhibition	Opening of the exhibition

¹ Edward de Bono, New Think. The Use of Lateral Thinking, London 1967

About the workshop leader:

Stefano Romano (b. 1975., Napoli) is an artist, curator and researcher. He lives and works between Bergamo (Italy) and Tirana (Albania).

His artistic practice explores the deep contradictions that lies in our reality, often investigated in relation to architecture, urban and social contexts. His approach is based on the idea of the work as a spatio-temporal process that often needs the active participation of the viewer to complete itself. In this way, art projects become conversations that allow for the development of an alternative point of view to the dominant narratives. The research is translated into temporary actions, performances, installations, video works, photographs and drawings.

He completed a double degree PhD in architecture at the University of Ferrara (Italy) and at Polis University in Tirana (Albania). In the framework of this doctorate, he works as a lecturer in the visual arts courses at Polis University, in the faculty of Art and Design. He works from more than a decade in Albania where he conceived several projects as artist as well as curator. He conceived the 1.60insurgent space project whose focus was the public space; he was also co-founder of the T.I.C.A. (Tirana Institute of Contemporary Art). In 2012 he was co-founder of the DZT collective (DyZeroTre) and of the MAPS - Mobile Archive on Public Space platform. His latest project is The Mobile School of Visual Arts; a pedagogical project based on the idea of art as the production of knowledge and active participation.

His work has been exhibited in national and international exhibitions including:

Fondazione Pini (Milano, Italy), Collezione Giuseppe Iannaccone (Milano, Italy), Rotor (Graz, Austria), Autostrada Biennale (Prizren, Kosovo); BACO arte contemporanea (Bergamo, Italy); Artopia Gallery (Milano, Italy); Careof (Milano, Italy); Placentia Arte (Piacenza, Italy); GAMeC area Palestra, (Bergamo, Italy); Galleria Alice & altri lavori in corso (Roma, Italy); 54° Biennale di Venezia – Padiglione delle Accademie di Belle Arti, Arsenale (Venezia, Italy); Macro Future (Roma Italy); GC.AC (Monfalcone, Gorizia, Italy); Neon campo base (Bologna, Italy); Triennale (Milano, Italy); Chelsea Art Museum (New York, USA); Tirana Bienale 3 (Tirana, Albania); Museo d'arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce (Genova, Italy); The Yugoslav Biennial of Young Artist, Centre for Contemporary Arts (Vrsac/Belgrade Serbia e Montenegro); Via Farini (Milano, Italy); Boston Cyberarts Festival, Coolidge Corner Theatre (Boston U.S.A).

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