

FONDAZIONE NICOLA DEL ROSCIO

UN/VEILED

Inside the creative process (after Cy Twombly)

May 25 – July 5 2024

A program of live concerts, dance, poetry, talks
and an exhibition of Devendra Banhart

curated by

Nicola Del Roscio e Eleonora Di Erasmo
in homage to Cy Twombly

A series of appointments open to the public; reservation required via [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Exhibition open to the public from May 25 to July 5, 2024, Tuesday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; on rehearsal days - May 25 and 30, June 21 and 22, June 28 and 29 - it is advisable to call Fondazione Nicola Del Roscio to check visiting hours.

Opening: Friday, May 24, 2024, 6.00 - 8.00 p.m.

Fondazione Nicola Del Roscio and Cy Twombly Foundation present the second edition of *Un/veiled*, from Saturday May 25 to Friday July 5, at via Crispi 18, a project curated by Nicola Del Roscio and Eleonora Di Erasmo, celebrating various artistic languages, in homage to the work of Cy Twombly.

Un/veiled. Inside the creative process (after Cy Twombly) is a multidisciplinary program that consists of five evenings of live concerts, dance, poetry, talks, a listening station dedicated to Morton Feldman and an exhibition of works by musician and visual artist Devendra Banhart, in collaboration with Galleria Mazzoli, Modena.

The schedule includes the involvement of internationally renowned artists: **Morton Feldman** (listening station *Triadic Memories*, 1981), **Devendra Banhart** (live May 25, 9.00 pm), **MYRA MELFORD'S SPLASH TRIO with Michael Formanek & Ches Smith** (live May 30, 9.00 pm), **Dean Rader and Carlos Peris** (presentation of the publications by Dean Rader, *Before the Borderless: Dialogues with the Art of Cy Twombly*, 2023 and by Carlos Peris, *From State of Mind to the Tangible. The Photographic Cosmos of Cy Twombly*, 2022, June 7, 6.30 pm), **PLAY/Michèle Murray** (dance June 22, 9.00 pm), **Eraldo Bernocchi and Rita Marcotulli** (live June 29, 9.00 pm).

Un/veiled is the unprecedented result of an extensive research conducted over the past four years by the Cy Twombly Foundation at its Rome and Gaeta offices at the behest of **Nicola Del Roscio**, aimed at collecting, documenting and preserving at its archives the musical, choreographic and poetic compositions of artists who have been inspired by or have attempted to build an intimate dialogue with the works of Cy Twombly.

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From this research in 2022 came the idea of inviting some of the most interesting personalities on the international scene, who have tried their hand at reinterpreting Twombly's work, to perform in a series of live concerts at the spaces of Fondazione Nicola Del Roscio.

THE UN/VEILED 2024 PROGRAM

If in the first edition of *Un/veiled* the references to Cy Twombly's works were obvious and declared by the artists involved in their own productions, the program conceived for this second episode intends to push the spectator to explore the underlying links between the great artist and the various proposals. This is done through listening to **Triadic Memories** (1981), a musical composition for solo piano by **Morton Feldman**, an American post-avant-garde composer; in the vision of **Devendra Banhart's** ink and pencil drawings; in the perception of the energy released by the jazz improvisations of **Myra Melford's Splash Trio**, along the movements, gestures and "instant compositions" of **Michèle Murray** with her company PLAY, as well as in the writing of Dean Rader and Carlos Peris or the notes of **Eraldo Bernocchi** and **Rita Marcotulli** paying homage to Cy Twombly and the musician Harold Budd at the same time.

Although they belong to different generations and expressive universes, the artists involved in the second edition of the project are united by their inspiration: Cy Twombly profoundly influenced their creative process, leading them to offer an unprecedented reinterpretation of the work of the great American artist.

Morton Feldman's composition **Triadic Memories** (1981) becomes the pivot around which the theme of the second edition revolves. In 1977, the composer met Cy Twombly in Rome, where he had the opportunity to see a series of paintings in process, which he would find concluded the following year in New York. It had to be the 1978 10-part cycle *Fifty Days at Iliam*, inspired by Homer's Iliad and now in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

During a lecture, the composer recounts that he was particularly struck by the way Cy Twombly had managed to modulate color tones, achieving almost imperceptible shading and variation between paintings. In 1981 Feldman recovered that suggestion and transposed it into sound in the composition *Triadic Memories*, going so far as to translate chromatic modulation into tonal modulation through the use of the piano sustaining pedal, which is left suspended throughout the performance of the 90-minute piece. Listening to Feldman's composition is an essential introduction for the audience from which to immerse themselves in the works and creative process of the other invited artists.

The exhibition **Devendra Banhart. Total Pink Cosmos in Square White Cloud** opens the *Un/veiled* project on 24 May (through 5 July). The exhibition traces different phases and aspects of Banhart's artistic research through a selection of works on paper and new drawings created especially for this occasion. Devendra Banhart, even before embarking on his career as a musician, trained as a visual artist: art, music and poetry coexist in his research. The artist has stated on several occasions that he has been strongly influenced by the work of Cy Twombly throughout his career. The sometimes intimate and meditative dimension (*Haru*, 2014) of some drawings seems to recall Twombly's experiments on paper from the early 1950s, the almost obsessive repetition of the same subject (*Sphinx Interiors*, 2014) brings to mind some of the American master's works that, produced in series, differ only in almost imperceptible details. Banhart's works on paper, like the poems and lyrics of his songs, are characterised by a visionary imagery. Phrases or fragments of words become an integral part of the drawings that the artist often uses as album covers (*Monument*, 2007; *Monument*, 2008).

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The **artist's musical compositions** are available to the public at the exhibition through the screening of the second part of the film *OLA* (2020), which features Banhart performing pieces from his 10 albums collection inside the Bob Baker Marionette Theater in Los Angeles.

It is **Devendra Banhart** himself who opens the performance program of the second edition of Un/veiled on **Saturday, May 25**, performing live at the Foundation in an acoustic concert that takes a journey through his vast musical repertoire, which also includes pieces from his latest album, *Flying Wig* (2023).

The second scheduled evening, **Thursday, May 30**, features jazz pianist and composer **Myra Melford**, and her new trio, **Splash**, featuring bassist **Michael Formanek** and drummer/vibraphonist **Ches Smith**. Their project is the latest installment of Melford's ongoing body of work inspired by and engaging with the work of Cy Twombly, entitled, *An Extravagant Joy (for Cy Twombly)*. The compositions in this new set of works are in dialogue with *Free Wheeler* (1955), the Blackboard paintings (1966-1971), the cycle in 12 parts *Lepanto* (2001), and *Untitled* (2003), both in the Udo and Anette Brandhorst Collection. Melford doesn't attempt to directly translate Twombly's work in sonic form; instead, she approaches her own musical language via techniques and processes using action words – "Splash" among them – to propel both compositions and improvisations, discovering means to capture the impression of spontaneity in concrete forms, and the energy and physicality of the gestures that made them. Her dialogue with Twombly has evolved over nearly three decades, since she discovered the artist through his celebrated 1994 retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Previous installments of the project include two albums with her all-star quintet Fire and Water (with Mary Halvorson, Ingrid Laubrock, Tomeka Reid and Lesley Mok) entitled, *For the Love of Fire and Water* (2022) and *Hear the Light Singing* (2023) both on RogueArt Records, and a set of music for the collective trio MZM, which she co-leads with Miya Masaoka and Zeena Parkins.

The third appointment on the calendar, **Friday, June 7**, features the poet and writer **Dean Rader** (2019 Guggenheim Fellow in Poetry) and the researcher **Carlos Peris** in conversation, who will discuss their respective publications and personal perspectives on the work of Cy Twombly. *Before the Borderless: Dialogues with the Art of Cy Twombly* (2023) is a collection of poems in which Rader enters into dialogue with some of Twombly's works, and *From State of Mind to the Tangible. The Photographic Cosmos of Cy Twombly* (2022) is an analysis conducted by Peris on the American artist's photographic work to reveal its fundamental importance in the course of his research.

The fourth evening, scheduled for **Saturday, June 22**, is dedicated to dance. **Michèle Murray and her company PLAY** (Montpellier, France) present **the Italian premiere of Wilder Shores** (2020). The choreographer was inspired by the title of a famous Cy Twombly painting *Wilder Shores of Love* (1985) to describe the concepts of energy, time and space through her "instant compositions." Murray's method consists in giving basic parameters to the dancers - the type of movements, timing, spaces within which to move, rules of interaction - to use as a starting point for developing their own personal choreography. From their combination, the entire choreographic composition comes to life. *Wilder Shores* creates a dialogue between the past and the present, appropriating a number of figures from classical ballet and some of the choreographic principles dear to Merce Cunningham, reinterpreting them through a contemporary methodology.

The programming concludes on **Saturday, June 29**, with a concert by the musician **Eraldo Bernocchi** and the jazz pianist **Rita Marcotulli**, who present a preview of their personal interpretation of two musical pieces written and dedicated by Harold Budd to Cy Twombly, *Mars and the Artist (after Cy Twombly)*,

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2011 and *Veil of Orpheus (Cy Twombly's)*, 2012. The concert will also include performances of previously unreleased pieces resulting from the two musicians' recent collaboration.

The second edition of *Un/veiled* is accompanied by a dedicated publication detailing the project and the program of events. The catalog features a special booklet, entirely dedicated to Devendra Banhart's exhibition, which includes an interview with the artist about his work and Cy Twombly's influence on his research.

THE UN/VEILED CALENDAR 2024

Exhibition

Devendra Banhart. Total Pink Cosmos in Square White Cloud

Opening: May 24, 2024, 6-8 pm

Exhibition dates: 25 May - 5 July 2024

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May 25, 2024, 9.00 pm

Live Concert **Devendra Banhart**

May 30, 2024, 9.00 pm

Live Concert **MYRA MELFORD'S SPLASH TRIO with Michael Formanek & Ches Smith**

June 7, 2024, 6.30 pm

Dean Rader & Carlos Peris in conversation about the publications:

Dean Rader, *Before the Borderless: Dialogues with the Art of Cy Twombly* (2023);

Carlos Peris, *From State of Mind to the Tangible. The Photographic Cosmos of Cy Twombly* (2022)

June 22, 2024, 9.00 pm

Dance **PLAY/Michèle Murray, Wilder Shores** (2020)

June 29, 2024, 9.00 pm

Live concert **Eraldo Bernocchi & Rita Marcotulli**

Contact for the press

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FONDAZIONE NICOLA DEL ROSCIO

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Opening hours:

May 25 - July 5, 2024

Tuesday through Saturday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed: Sunday - Monday

Free entrance