

☺ 🌊 ✨ ♂ ▼ 🌊 is a feminist research group born in September 2020 in the virtual space between Palermo, Naples and Turin.

Each person is somewhat connected to the South of Italy and came together with the necessity to discuss the intersection between feminism - both in its historicity and in more contemporary forms - and the Southern Question.

The dialogical form as a collective practice of knowledge production and self-enquiry, starting from our own experiences and memories, is the methodological approach we share together, by looking at feminist self-awareness through a contemporary, critical lens.

We are writers, researchers, curators, photographers, illustrators, historians, activists and a lot more. Our aim is to collect our shared thoughts in several forms that could become not only a publication, but we also want to question the limits of each of our fields of interest and working in a transdisciplinary way.

From our discussions, we found a strong link between the representation of Meridione, whose tales and traditions have been too often ignored, oversimplified and exoticized, and the Women and their genealogies, that were also excluded or manipulated from the singular and dominant narrative of history. The Meridione, passive and backward but also magical, mysterious and undiscovered, and the Women of the South, are both the most stereotypical expressions of a binary, simplistic and othering representation. Our aim is to re-narrate these stories in a more complex way, re-positioning the focus on what is left in the collective unconscious and discussing the concepts of backwardness and progress, magical and mythical. We aim to give back the voices to the subjects (not exclusively alive or human) that move through the South of Italy, including us.

Our research follows the steps of the women of the South, for example the Movements for the Occupation of the Land in the 50s and the protests connected to the Belice Earthquake in the 60s - 70s. During our meetings we discussed the theme of subjectivity departing from the writings of Carla Lonzi, and analysed the memories of Goliarda Sapienza, we were interested in the mythologies linked to the witchcrafts in the Aeolian Islands, and we collected some audiovisual materials (documentaries, experimental films) produced by women who were asking our very same questions in the past.

Bibliography:

Testi:

La questione meridionale di Antonio Gramsci
L'università di Rebibbia di Goliarda Sapienza
Lettera aperta di Goliarda Sapienza
La presenza dell'uomo nel femminismo di Carla Lonzi e Rivolta Femminile
Sputiamo su Hegel di Carla Lonzi e Rivolta Femminile
Questione meridionale di Francesco Faeta

Documentari:

E poi tornammo a casa di Giulia Fanara
Scuola senza fine di Adriana Monti
Essere donne di Cecilia Mangini
L'amore in Italia di Comencini
Comizi d'amore di Pasolini



Biographies:

Sofia Melluso

In 2017 she created the cultural association ONIBI. She collaborated with Foundation Manifesta 12 with the festival OltreOreto. She curated the temporary exhibition space Dom in Palermo. Works in the team of World Press Photo Palermo and she is a spokesperson of FLAG.

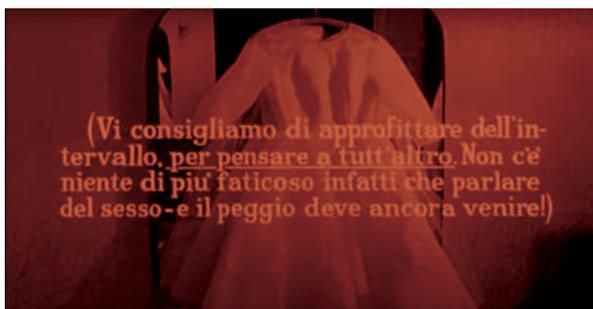
She is interested in gender theories and feminist thought and experiments in different languages and media, from photography to drawing and graphics.

Claudia Gangemi is a writer, curator and contemporary art producer.

She studied at the Fine Arts Academy of Bologna, the Central Saint Martins and the Goldsmiths College in London, from which holds a degree in curatorial studies with a thesis titled "Are Biennials Going South? An Economical and Conceptual Critique on the Legacy and Formats of Southern Biennials - From L'Havana to Documenta 14". Her field of research is primarily focused on the instituting processes and political imaginaries of the globalised art world. She is part of the collective Femminote which promotes the project "Compriamo Isola delle Femmine". She has been part of several queer, intersectional feminist and decolonial collectives.

Sonia D'Alto is a researcher, writer and curator. She is currently a Ph.D researcher at HFBK in Hamburg. She is part of the scientific committee of Fondazione Adolfo Pini in Milan. She organised editorial and curatorial projects between Italy and France, collaborating with institutions, project spaces, and artistic residencies. She published critical texts for Mousse, Critique d'Art, Not (Nero edition), Artribune.

Her curatorial activity is an attempt to subtract itself from the conventional distinction between history, poetry and politics, utilising a historical-artistic-speculative methodology. Especially, her research are focused on the performative languages, the contradictions of artistic capitalism, the feminist thought and the multi-naturalism



Susanna Gonzo is interested in artistic research, writing, drawing/graphics and translation from a feminist perspective. She is part of the multidisciplinary artistic collective shock forest group born in Amsterdam and of a feminist assembly based in Palermo. She worked as an educator and researcher in several cultural institutions, such as ma'mal art foundation in Jerusalem and dar jacir for art and research in Bethlehem. Currently, she is part of the curatorial team of the haus der kulturen der welt, involved in the research on the feminist documentary and experimental cinema.

Valentina Sestieri

I was born in Rome in 1990. Now I live in Palermo and curate the project BACO about photographs together with Andrea Campesi. I study Art History at Sapienza. I like archives, found photographs and strangers' histories.

Naomi Morello

I have been working in the field of photography and cinema for over ten years. My gender is fluid. I am part of the circuit Nomadica, a cultural association that promotes and spreads experimental and research cinema, and Cesura Publish, editorial house of the namesake photographic collective. Anticapitalism, transfeminism, sex, the erotics, the gaze, the gender theories, queer culture and iconography influence directly my professional life and my artistic work. Together with other people I am involved in the realisation of urban militant art. I live, work and fight in Palermo.

