

Flavia Tritto**La prima festa dell'anno [The first party of the year]**

20 december 2024 — 22 february 2025

VOGA Art Project is delighted to invite you on Friday, December 20th at 7:00 PM to the opening of "The First Party of the Year", a solo exhibition by the Bari-based artist Flavia Tritto. Combining her political commitment as an LGBTQIA+ activist with her artistic practice, Flavia concludes the project "VIVA. Lesbian Experience and Visibility from Present to Future in Puglia" with this exhibition. The project, curated by VOGA Art Project in collaboration with MIXED LGBTQIA+, engaged lesbian and queer individuals in Puglia in a cultural research journey aimed at bringing to light the experiences and perspectives of a segment of the population often rendered invisible in the collective imagination.

As 2024 draws to a close, "The First Party of the Year" is a celebration of marginalized identities and temporal subversions. It is an invitation to party, to dance, to desire, and to give voice to words and loves that have long been taboo. The exhibition weaves together the voices and faces of women from Puglia's queer network, creating a collective and intergenerational narrative aimed at reclaiming and reimagining shared stories and imagery. Through an intimate and anthropological exploration of family photo albums and the rediscovery of graphic materials from the Desiderandae—a separatist lesbian group active in Puglia since the early 1990s—the exhibition unveils a hidden history of lesbianism in the region. It juxtaposes divergent temporalities: on one hand, celebrations, vacations, and moments of liberation from the heteropatriarchal monolith; on the other, the individual challenges faced by young girls growing up on soccer fields, beaches, and at carnival parties.

The exhibition further incorporates symbols of contemporary desire and empowerment, infusing new energy and visions for the future. It explores the boundaries of self-(representation) possible for queer women who have lived in the region over past decades, contributing to the rediscovery of the genealogy of this minority and outlining a shared lesbica terrona (Southern lesbian) iconography.

"VIVA" is funded by the Apulian Regional Council as part of the "Futura. Puglia for Equality – 2nd edition" initiative.

Flavia Tritto (Bari, 1993) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans installation, video, performance, and writing. Based in Bari, she is the co-curator of VOGA Art Project and an LGBTQIA+ activist. Flavia earned her Master's in Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins (UAL) in London in 2019. Since then, she has participated in international exhibitions and residencies, including the Interference Summer Project by the Interference International Light Art Project in Tunis (Tunisia, 2023), Trainings for the Not-Yet at the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity (Canada, 2019), and The European Academy of Participation by the Goethe Institut (Marseille, France, 2018). She won the "Nuovo Grand Tour 2023" grant promoted by MiC-Creatività Contemporanea, Ministry of Culture, and will be an artist-in-residence at Dos Mares in Marseille (France, 2024). Recent solo exhibitions include "& you, you were the window" at Hidden Garage (Bologna, 2023), "Tiepido" at CRAC Spazio Arte (Castelnuovo Rangone, MO, 2023), "at a proximateDISTANCE" at spazioSERRA (Milan, 2021), and "Extensa" at Museo Nuova Era (Bari, 2020). Her group exhibitions include "Radici" at the Acquedotto Pugliese headquarters (Bari, 2024), Mind the Gap at Spazio 35 (Udine, 2022), "Ultraromanticismo. Il Post Umano tra Inquietudini e Abbandono" (Modena, 2022), RGB Light Experience Festival (Rome, 2020), From a Distant Proximity at Güler Sanat Gallery (Ankara, Turkey, 2019), A Critical Rehearsal at Lethaby Gallery (London, 2019), and Come Together: Art and Politics in a Climate of Unrest at Tate Exchange, Tate Modern (London, 2019).

VOGA Art Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to the research, production, and promotion of contemporary art in Puglia. Since 2021, it has been organizing exhibitions, presentations, and workshops at its space on Via Francesco Curzio dei Mille 58 in Bari. Combining an international-level program with opportunities for local artists, creatives, and organizations, VOGA provides a platform to showcase and share their work.



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