



# Sounds of freedom and control between Naples and Cuba

*Fondazione Morra Greco presents "Imitación Controlada", the first Italian exhibition by artist Fidel García as part of the 2024 Contemporary Art Program promoted by the Municipality of Naples*

Fondazione Morra Greco is pleased to announce *Imitación Controlada*, the first Italian exhibition by Cuban artist Fidel García (Cuba, 1981). The exhibition, carried out through the first call for contemporary art by the City of Naples, will take place October 10-24, 2024 at the picturesque Church of San Severo al Pendino.

The project, promoted and funded by the City of Naples as part of the 2024 Contemporary Art program, invites the audience to explore concepts of mass, collectivity and control through a unique sound installation. *Imitación Controlada* is designed so as to become a reflection on the power dynamics between individuals and institutions, putting two historically charged cities, Naples and Havana, into dialogue.

"Fondazione Morra Greco's initiative," says Sergio Locorotolo, coordinator of cultural policies for the Municipality of Naples, "represents a new chapter in a journey towards the valorization of the Church of San Severo al Pendino, which, thanks to the efforts of the Manfredi administration, proves its vocation as a contemporary art hub. Citizens and tourists are offered, therefore, a greater opportunity to rediscover the monumental site through a multicultural journey, one capable of illuminating on the similarities, differences and contrasts of two striking realities, such as Naples and Havana."

## **The installation: a simulator of communal behavior**

At the heart of the exhibition is the sound installation *Imitación Controlada*, specifically designed for the central nave of the Church of San Severo al Pendino. The work, conceived by García during his stay in Naples in 2023, collects sounds recorded on the streets of Naples during celebrations for the 2023 football victory and those of Havana during the COVID-19 pandemic, in early 2020. These field recordings have merged into a database later titled 'Mass Hysteria', whose aim is to explore the intersection where collective hysteria and institutional control meet.

The installation maps out a traversable auditory topography where the masses in celebration or in turmoil progressively lose their individuality, in a continuous flow of sounds manipulated by the artist. The result is a soundscape that reflects the paradoxical workings of control regimes and calls for reflection on concepts of freedom and collectivity.

## **An interdisciplinary project and an engaging public program**

To coincide with the exhibition's runtime, Fondazione Morra Greco has planned a comprehensive calendar of events to encourage public involvement and further investigate the themes addressed by the artwork. The public programme includes guided tours, workshops and conversations with field experts to combine interdisciplinary approaches with a thorough understanding of the work and its context.

Planned activities include collaborations with schools, universities and local community groups to create experiential itineraries examining concepts of conformism, control and collectivity. The Church

of San Severo al Pendino will be more than just an exhibition site; thanks to hands-on workshops and sensorial walks that will encourage audiences to rethink urban spaces in an 'emotional' way, it will also act as a space for gathering and reflection.

### **Public program**

10 October 2024 | 5:00 pm | Opening and guided tour with artist Fidel García  
11 October 2024 | 12:00 pm | The artist meets students from the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples  
12, 15, 17, 19 October | 4:00 - 6:00 pm | Workshop "In ascolto. Suoni, corpi, spazi"  
12 and 19 October | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | Workshop "La città diviene poesia. Percorso emozionale urbano"  
17 October 2024 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm | Conversation on Art and Collectivity  
18 October 2024 | 10:00 am - 12:00 pm | Workshop | "Sentirsi Fare Spazio In Statuaria Forma Plastica"  
22 October 2024 | 10:30 am - 6:00 pm | Talk and workshops | Centering the Museum  
24 October 2024 | 12:00 pm | Visit with the curator  
24 October 2024 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm | Conversation on Democracy and Community

Guided tours will be offered every day without reservation. Visitors can go to the information desk from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and request the tour service, which will be provided in Italian or in English.

More detailed information is available at the link:

<https://www.fondazionemorragreco.com/en/imitacion-controlada/>

### **Artist bio**

Fidel García, born in Havana in 1981, is among the most interesting artists of the contemporary Cuban scene. After completing his studies at the San Alejandro National Academy of Fine Arts and the Superior Institute of Art in Cuba, he took part in numerous art residencies all over the world. His works have been on display in prestigious international contexts, such as the Havana Biennial and the ZKM Media Museum in Germany.

Fidel García also did a residency in Naples at the Fondazione Morra Greco in 2023. This residency was part of an exchange programme promoted by Fondazione Morra Greco and financed with the resources of the project Global Forum - Contemporary Art Exhibitions EDI 2021, as per an agreement signed in Havana between the same Foundation, the CNAP Consejo Nacional Artes Plásticas, the atelier Taller Chullima and the Institute of Cooperation and Development Italy Cuba, with the moral patronage of the Embassy of Cuba in Italy.

### **Fondazione Morra Greco**

Fondazione Morra Greco promotes, supports and fosters contemporary culture, valuing the vision of international and local artists, whether emerging or already renowned. The Foundation produces, hosts and takes part in important projects on local, national and international levels - such as EDI Global Forum - and also boasts a rich, interdisciplinary programme of exhibitions, cultural and educational activities that contribute to solidify its calling as a place of creation, planning and production of contemporary culture in all its forms.

### **Useful Information**

Exhibition opening: 10.10.2024 // Exhibition closing: 24.10.2024

Opening: Thursday 10.10.2024 from 5p.m. to 7p.m., free of charge

Location: Chiesa di San Severo al Pendino, Via Duomo, 286, 80138 Napoli (NA)

Visiting hours: Monday-Sunday from 10a.m. to 7p.m. – last admission 6:30p.m.

Free of charge

### **CONTACTS**

For interviews, high-res pictures and further enquiries, please write to

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