

PRESS RELEASE

Peter Fend at Fondazione Morra Greco: the geopolitics of art

From March 21 to June 30, a journey through satellite images, maps and ecological models to rethink the relationship between humans and nature.

Naples – Fondazione Morra Greco is pleased to announce *Lavoro per Natura Vivente, non solo Capitali*, the new exhibition project dedicated to American artist Peter Fend, curated by Massimiliano Scuderi. The exhibition stems from the experience of two artistic residencies that Fend held at the Foundation during 2024, during which the artist had the opportunity to work on never-before-seen works while expanding a renewed research in close connection with the local territory.

Through the interaction with the vibrant cultural fabric of Naples and Campania, Fend has consolidated an interdisciplinary approach that interweaves art, ecology and geopolitics. The exhibition – counting also on the support of the Campania Region – is thus intended not only as a collection of works, but as an active reflection on how art can be transformed into an operational means to address contemporary challenges – both environmental and social.

An art moving beyond the art system

Since 1978, Peter Fend has been redefining the role of the artist as an agent of transformation, employing art as a tool for analysis and concrete intervention in environmental and geopolitical issues. His practice is not limited to exhibition spaces, rather extending to the socio-political realm and interweaving with science, architecture and economics to propose concrete solutions to environmental emergencies.

In the 1980s Fend co-founded with other artists Ocean Earth, an organization envisioned as a tool to better implement the goals of the environmental art movement, which uses satellite imagery to monitor the environment and identify alternative energy sources. Using a radical, interdisciplinary approach, Fend demonstrates how art is not only a form of representation, but rather an active means of rethinking the relationship between humans and nature. In particular, his work emphasizes a return to the sea and rivers – essential elements to the ecological and social revival of communities.

A project born on the ground

In 2024, Fondazione Morra Greco welcomed Fend to two residencies. For the occasion, he developed a series of projects in close connection with the Campania region: after a thorough exploration of the Sarno and Volturno rivers, Fend analyzed their environmental conditions in collaboration with associations and local authorities involved in the protection of water resources.

This investigation gave rise to the works at the center of *Lavoro per Natura Vivente, non solo Capitali*, combining cartography, satellite images and materials collected on site. The result is an artistic practice that takes the form of a structured operational research on the ground, whose aim is to highlight the urgency of adopting sustainable strategies for the management of natural resources.

Art, ecology and geopolitics

The exhibition features a series of installations, maps and models of environmental intervention used by Fend to investigate the link between art and sustainability. Inspired by Russian constructivism, American conceptual art and the ecological practices of Joseph Beuys, the artist proposes an innovative use of natural resources, aiming at the creation of autonomous economies – alternatives to traditional capitalist models.

With *Lavoro per Natura Vivente, non solo Capitali*, Fondazione Morra Greco offers an overview of Peter Fend's pioneering practice – an art that does not merely represent the world, but becomes an active agent of change in proposing concrete solutions for a sustainable future.

Artist bio

Peter Fend, born in 1950 in Columbus, Ohio, is an American artist and architect known for his interdisciplinary approach that combines art, ecology, and geopolitics. In his work, Fend strongly advocates for the engagement of art in the public sphere, using his research as a means to propose solutions to a wide range of environmental and geopolitical issues in order to re-imagine the balance between social and natural world. In 1980, in collaboration with several artists, Fend founded Ocean Earth Construction and Development Corporation, an art collective and company that experiments with land management strategies and uses satellite imagery for ecological and political purposes.

His work has been exhibited at relevant landmarks, such as: Venice Biennale (1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2005), Documenta in Kassel (1987, 1992), Sharjah Biennial (UAE, 2007), São Paulo Biennial (2001), Liverpool Biennial (2004) and in numerous exhibitions for international institutions, including Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich (2020), Bard Hessel Museum, New York (2018), MUMOK, Vienna (2015), Galerie für Landschaftskunst, Hamburg (2007), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2004).

Fondazione Morra Greco

Fondazione Morra Greco promotes, supports and fosters contemporary culture, enhancing the international and local vision of emerging and established artists. Fondazione hosts and cooperates on major projects on a local, national and international scale, including EDI Global Forum. It also boasts a rich multidisciplinary program of exhibitions and cultural and educational activities that contribute to consolidating its vocation as a place to create, design and produce contemporary culture in all its forms.

Since 2008, it has become the first example in Italy of a mixed public-private foundation, with the Region of Campania joining the Board of Directors.

Opening hours

Exhibition opening: 21.03.2025 // Exhibition closing: 30.06.2025

Opening: Thursday 21.03.2025, 5 pm to 8 pm, free admission

Location: Fondazione Morra Greco, Largo Proprio di Avellino, 17, 80138 Napoli (NA)

Opening hours: Thursday–Saturday, 10 am to 5:30 pm, free admission

Press enquiries

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

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Discover more

<http://www.fondazionemorragreco.com/>

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