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# VIA LAURENTINA KM 0

ROMINA DE NOVELLIS (IT, 1982)

22 November 2024

18 January 2025



**VERNISSAGE : Vendredi 22 novembre, de 18h à 20h30**

Alberta Pane Gallery is delighted to present *Via Laurentina Km 0*, a solo exhibition by artist Romina De Novellis, organized on the occasion of her performance *STAR - 100% d'origine italienne*, which she will stage at the Centre Pompidou on 22 November from 11am to 6pm, as part of the 'Biodiversité' forum.

This solo show, presented across our two Parisian venues, invites the viewer to discover key performances from the artist's career, from her early works to her most recent performances, through an immersive installation, a sculpture, a video and photographs.

The title of the exhibition, *Via Laurentina Km 0*, refers to the artist's scooter accident in Via Laurentina in Rome in 2004. This event marked the end of her career as a dancer and the beginning of her work as a performer. Her very first performance, *La Festa di Santa Barbara* (2007), introduced De Novellis's working method, which involves the body in a performative gesture at the end of a research process — a body that she uses as a means of release, self-liberation, or as a way to assert her identity. In this performance, the artist tells an autobiographical story, drawing on the tragic tale of Santa Barbara, a woman who, like De Novellis, was also a victim of violence and patriarchal culture in the

South of Italy and the Mediterranean. Through this shift in language, the artist breaks free from self-censorship and the shame surrounding her personal history.

Her approach has since become even more political and committed. She has developed a perspective as a Crip anthropologist and eco-feminist artist. Her more recent performances, such as *Arachne* (2018), *Luna Park* (2018), and *The Last Supper* (2021), have taken on a more participatory and community-based approach, focusing on issues of the South through the lens of an eco-feminist reading.

Her work has been shown in major institutions, including the exhibition *Renverser ses yeux. Autour de l'arte povera 1960-1975* (2023) at the Jeu de Paume, where she presented *La Cultura Che Vive*, a series of four performances: *Bella Ciao*, *Il gioco della campana*, *Volare oh oh, cantare oh oh oh*, and *Del maiale non si butta via niente*.

Presented as a small retrospective, this exhibition offers a look back over the past 20 years, allowing viewers to explore the artist's research through an immersive and poetic installation of floating images, with a special focus on the landmark performance *Gradiva*, created in 2017 in Pompeii.

1 : *Crip*: Studies at the intersection of queer studies and disability studies.

**Dates & Opening hours**

22.11.2024 - 18.01.2025  
Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 7pm

**More information**

albertapane.com  
alysee@albertapane.com  
01 72 34 64 13

**Alberta Pane Gallery**

44 - 47, rue de Montmorency  
75003, Paris  
France

**Instagram**

@galeriealbertapane

**\* STAR - 100% d'origine italienne**

Friday, 22 November, 11am - 6pm  
Centre Pompidou, level 5

*Star - 100% d'origine italienne* is a performance and installation resulting from an extensive period of research in the Apulia region, led by the artist and the Domus Artist Residency.

This work criticizes the agri-food industry, focusing specifically on the harvesting and global distribution of tomatoes and their derivative products. Romina De Novellis seeks to expose the complexity behind this colonized fruit, which is sold and consumed as a vegetable and transformed into a pop icon of Italian food. The installation aims to embody the seductive image of the tomato as the desirable and appetizing product we find in our supermarkets. However, it actually conceals a mafia-driven system of migrant exploitation in Southern Italy, as well as the consequent ecological disaster. *Star*, the quintessential brand of Italian industrial agri-food products, is here transformed into a decadent, off-season, pop star.

Romina De Novellis is an eco-feminist performance artist and anthropologist, as well as the founder and director of the Domus Artist Residency in Galatina (Lecce). Born in Naples in 1982, she grew up in Rome before moving to Paris in 2008. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Dance in London, studied at the DAMS (Department of Arts, Music, and Theatre) at Rome 3 University, and later earned a PhD in anthropology from the EHESS in Paris. After many years devoted to dance and theatre, De Novellis shifted her focus to the visual arts following a serious scooter accident in 2004. She then chose the language of repeated gestures, often using her own body in urban environments and public spaces. Her performances, installations, videos, photos, and polaroids have been exhibited in numerous international institutions, contemporary art fairs, and are part of both public and private collections.

This performance is presented as part of the 'Biodiversité' forum at the Centre Pompidou, in collaboration with the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB).



Romina De Novellis, *Fase Rem 3*, 2014.

## ROMINA DE NOVELLIS

Born in 1982 in Naples, Italy  
Lives and works in Paris, France

Born in Naples and raised in Rome, Romina De Novellis - performer, visual artist, and anthropologist - has been based in Paris since 2008. After training in classical dance, she further studied the body from an anthropological perspective through the lens of Mediterranean cultures and disability. The concept of *care* is at the core her research and artistic work.

Her performances are defined by long-duration, with endurance being crucial in her approach. Repetitive gestures or prolonged stillness transform her performances into living sculptures. Inspired by Mediterranean rural traditions, the artist aims to adopt a non-binary perspective on society, describing her performances as anti-rituals. She works with stereotypes and icons, reimagining them as pop and decadent symbols, starting from socio-political and ethno-anthropological themes.

Her works have been presented in numerous contexts, including Jeu de Paume, the Tuileries Garden - Louvre Museum, MAC/VAL, Ca' Pesaro International Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Venice, the MADRE Museum in Naples, the Poznan Biennale in Poland, the Armory Show in New York, the Villa Datriis Foundation, the Louis Vuitton Foundation, the Palais de Tokyo, the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature in Paris, among others.

In 2019, Romina De Novellis launched a residency program for artists and curators called *Domus Artist Residency*, based in Galatina, Italy.

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Romina De Novellis, *Gradiva*, 2017.  
Performance held in Pompeii, Italy.

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Romina De Novellis, *Bella Ciao*, 2023.  
Performance held at Jeu de Paume, in Paris, France.



Romina De Novellis, *Voulez-vous danser avec moi ? Merci, je ne préfère pas !*, 2023.  
Performance presented at the Tuileries Garden on the occasion of the public program of Art Basel Paris+.