

La Sacra Famiglia

Naples 2016 Produced by Le Toboggan (Décine, Lyon),
with the support of Museo Madre Naples, Museo
Archeologico Naples, coordinated by D.A.F.NA

A performance in the Neapolitan metropolitan furniture. A public action in the heart of the city's historic centre. A work on the family understood as a caste, as a place of love and of conflict, in which rituals dictate the everyday and determine family roles. The family as a cage or shield, to flee from, or to be defended by. The family as the realm of the greatest contradictions: violent, cynical, full of passion.

The Neapolitan family, a place of life and death, of mutual aid, of daily blackmail, of exclusion and betrayal.

The family as the place of imperfections: The Holy Family.

To describe the social and anthropological role of the family in the imagination and in the social projection of the concept of family in Southern Italy, I returned to the city where I was born, Naples, where my whole family on both my mother's and father's sides live. In Naples, in the historic centre, I marched with my whole family: aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces, grand-nephews and grand-nieces, uncles-in-law, godfathers, godmothers, blood cousins, second, third and fourth cousins, brothers-in-law, parents-in-law, brothers, sisters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, mothers-in-law, mother, father, and daughter.

A procession in the metropolitan space of Naples; a family procession among other Neapolitan families, on 23 December. In their hands, each member of the family carries a symbol of the Christmas dinner: the Christmas eel, the game of tombola, a hen, the pipers, the carpet beaters, the presents, the salt, the Christmas sweets, pizza with escarole. As in a sort of offertory, the family holds in its hands its gifts of the family reunion, and after traveling through the city, ends its procession immersing itself in the waters of the Gulf of Naples.

The procession, with all the gifts and all the participants, ends in the water – a sort of purification or family suicide, or perhaps the desire to change, to break the mould, and to go beyond, to the horizon line.