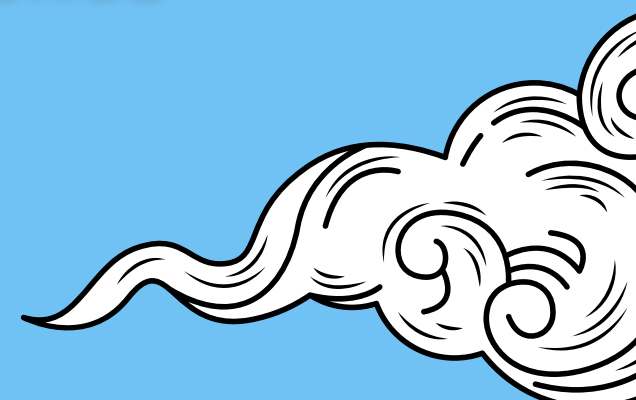


BEYOND *the* CLOUDS



ART AS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE



ABOUT US

ARTSHARES SRL A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

We are an innovative start-up, founded in 2019 and operating in the world of art and Fintech, with a specific vocation for the promotion of emerging artists and the realization of unique, transversal projects, in connection between the physical reality and the digital dimension. We are also committed to creating, promoting and managing an **International Art Exchange**, intended as a stock exchange dedicated to the art market, developed on a web-interfaced platform, integrated with Blockchain technology and aimed at listing, promoting and buying and selling works and shares of artworks and art collections on the international market.

THE EVENT

The event is the brainchild of Artshares and its team, in particular **Prof. Ghislain Mayaud** (Curator), **Salvatore Siracusa** (CEO), **Luca Perna** (Product Manager) and **Federica Schneck** (Curator).

In the aftermath of the First World War, closely followed by the Second, many artists questioned the role of art, and the beauty it engendered, in relation to its usefulness in stopping the evil and hatred caused by conflict. How is art, its visions, transformed during a war? Since 20 February 2014, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict has been ongoing, escalating sharply after the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24th, 2022. For years now, the two peoples have been forced into war and reduced to a chessboard, where the great powers measure their strength.

This war conflict is having a strong symbolic influence on people's emotional lives, squeezed within a contemporary society that, by siding with war as a resolving system, annuls and disqualifies itself. History has been cast aside, it no longer plays the role of *magistra vitae*, and the lessons we can learn from it are utterly vain if human beings abandon reason to condemn themselves eternally to war.

In 1912, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, in his *Manifesto del Futurismo*, stated that he wanted to glorify war, considered “*the only hygiene of the world*”, promoting a radical social change, a different vision of life, which later resulted in two world wars. The 20th century should have taught us that war is just hell, for everyone. It is not radical renewal, but an approximation to total inhumanity! How can art deal with such a sensitive subject?

Since it is a direct action of mankind, aimed at freedom of thought and creation, and distant from any kind of intolerance, contemporary artistic language must act as an instrument to denounce the conflicts that are leading us towards the abyss. A language that opens up to a communication that does not succumb to the horrors of war, but is a spokesman for different poetics.

In the face of the horrors that the war between Russia and Ukraine is manifesting, **“Beyond The Clouds”** stands as a manifestation of another vision, on the part of the two aggrieved peoples, who are now invited to collaborate artistically throughout the duration of the event, seen as an open space for reflection and collaboration. Two peoples, two artists to represent them. A unique collaboration that has resulted in an artwork that testifies to the ability of art to act as a bridge beyond the present, beyond suffering, beyond the storm. A universal language that projects itself beyond the clouds, towards hope.

On the occasion of the **Rome Art Week** event, Ukrainian artist **Aljoscha** and Russian artist **Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov** met in Rome and, together, designed, realised and made available to the public **“Blooming Skin of Brain Paradise”**, an installation that is the result of a collaboration full of meaning, expressive power and communicative value.

Through a collective action, the result of teamwork, **“Beyond The Clouds”** wants to highlight the ability of art to show itself as an active field aimed at free thinking, a fertile territory for generating reflection and an alternative vision. A space that is necessary for intercultural dialogue and for the development of the society that Europe has been building for 80 years. A society of peace, justice and equality.

The artists, although spokesmen for different missions and motivations, were invited to remain faithful to their function as creative minds appealing to their own humanity, stemming from shared cultural, religious, spiritual codes, from the roots of a long common history. Art responds to this appeal and asserts itself as a creative force that transcends all barriers, even the most tragic of all.

THE ARTISTS OF THE EVENT

ALJOSCHA



Aljoscha, stage name Oleksii Potupin, was born in Lozova, Ukraine. He is a visual artist who expresses himself with sculptures and conceptual installations based on the principles of bioism and biofuturism.

He has exhibited in exhibitions, galleries and museums in Europe and has received numerous international awards.

ILYA FEDOTOV-FEDOROV

Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov was born in Moscow and now works mainly in New York with an international outlook.

Moving from a background in genetic bioengineering and philology, he works on themes of human ecology, gender and bodily metamorphosis.

He expresses himself through installations, sculptures, paintings and multimedia tools.



THE ARTWORK

The installation consists of two important aspects: the manifestation of humanism and diversity and an understanding of the complexity of life.

Here are Aljoscha's words: "Seeing any society or country as a superorganism will lead us to realise a highly complex synthetic and bio-futuristic artwork, which can be understood as a peaceful coexistence of the deviations and mutations of distributed 'brains'.

Our collaborative work can be described as a utopia: with futuristic ideas of genetic recalibration in mind, we would like to find paths of peace, kindness and hyperthymy through the creation of unknown and unseen prototypes of future organic life.

Humans, as hyper-social organisms, seem doomed to eternal dissatisfaction and searching. Human beings are often driven to aggression, however absurd and senseless their ideologies and motivations may be.

In contrast to the ongoing war and cruelty between our countries, I firmly believe in the possibility of peaceful and creative coexistence and an understanding based on scientific insights into the unknown worlds of our genetics and biology, their hidden contexts and the bioethical possibilities of improving our world. In this sense, one can perceive our large-scale site-specific installation as a revelation of possible peace and unnamed unexpected beauty, as a manifestation of bioethical abolitionism and even the engineering of paradise.

A set of multiple compound biosculptures, almost weightless and ethereal, self-sufficient and open, will unite into a large biofuturistic organism, an unknown creature that seems to be kept afloat by an inner impulse. All these individual sculptures, as beings, possess their own character and diversity, their own unique form.

Their alterocentric self-organisation and complexity, as in a living social entity, leads to cohesion: a prototypical community of singular brains as a superior and unknown super-species, composed of singular individuals joined together, evolving and placing themselves in a transformative relationship with their environment.

Teleological questions about the purpose of aberrations might have a clear answer: any kind of deviation is the key function of all living matter, our peaceful coexistence and the further eradication of suffering."

REALIZATION OF THE ARTWORK













DETAILS OF THE ARTWORK

ARTISTS: Aljoscha and Ilya Fedotov-Fedorov

TITLE: *“Blooming Skin of Brain Paradise”*

YEAR: 2023

PLACE OF REALIZATION: Rome, Italy

TECHNIQUE: Installation

MATERIALS: PETG acrylic glass, recyclable plastic pellets and acrylic spray cans.

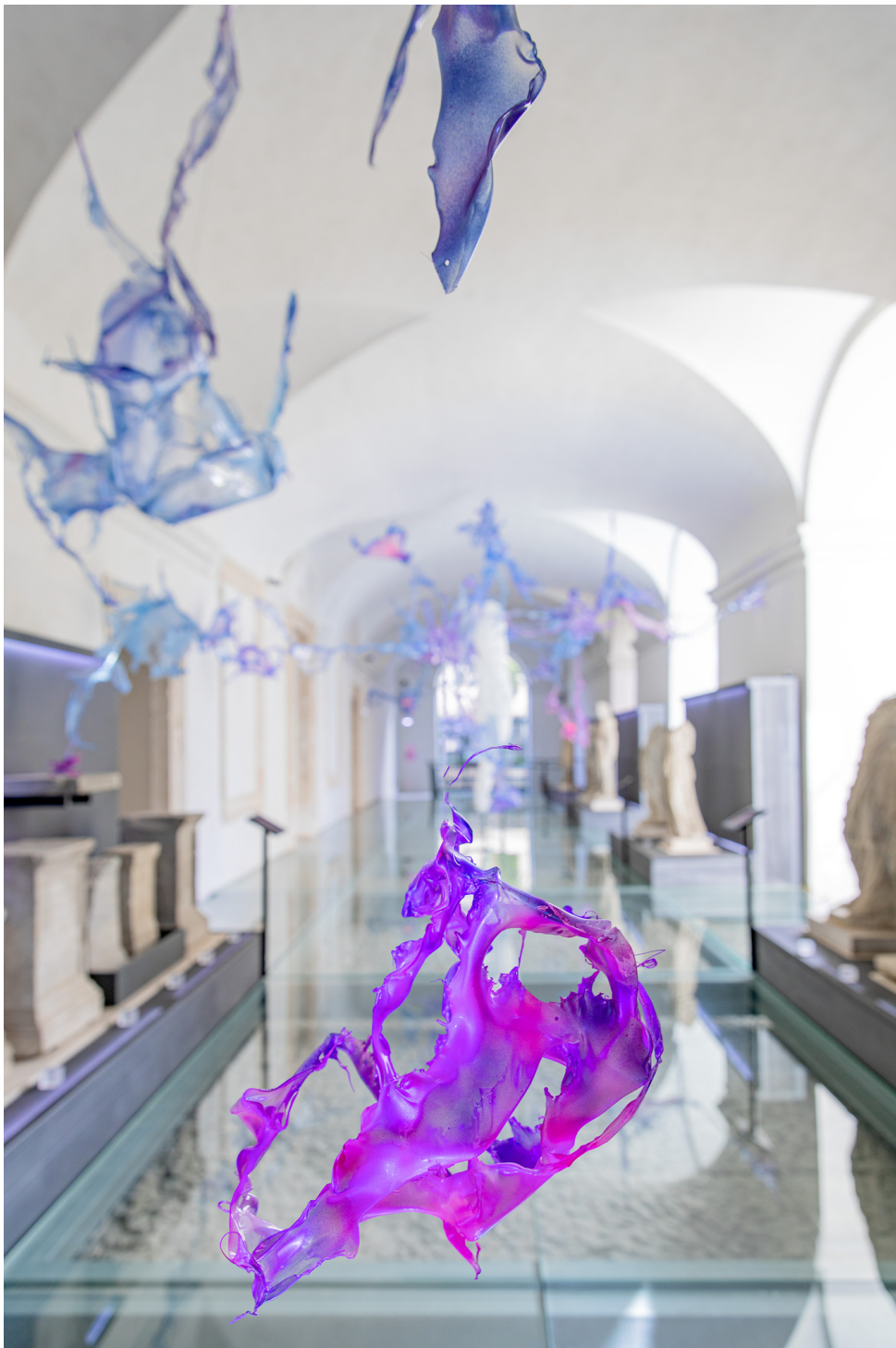
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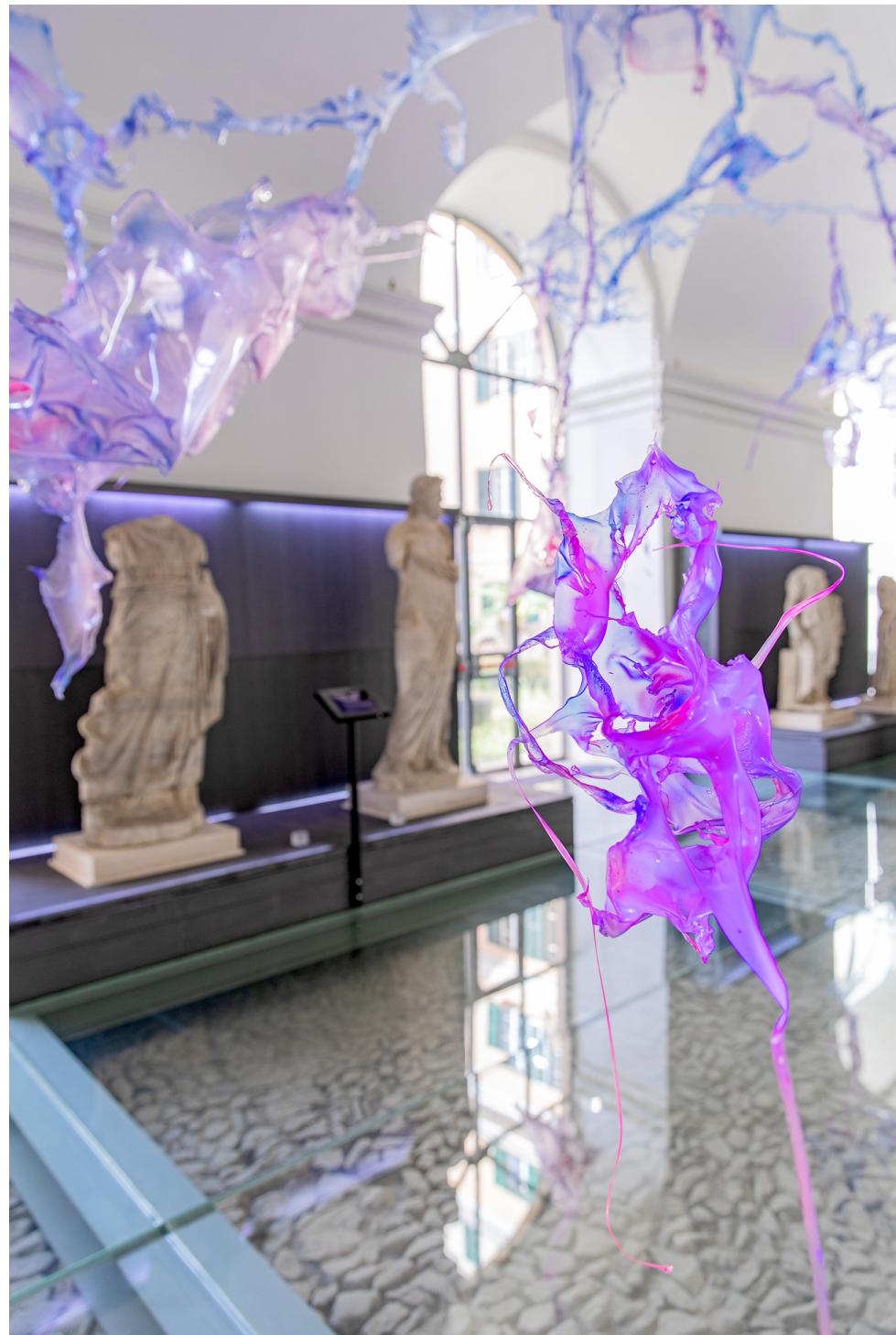
















THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

The artwork was exhibited at **Villa Altieri**, one of the most prestigious XVII century historical residences in Rome, from 23 to 28 October 2023.





MEETING WITH THE POPE

The two artists, on the occasion of a General Audience, had the wonderful opportunity to meet the Holy Father **Pope Francesco** and, during the meeting, had the opportunity to give him two small artworks, created especially for him, as a reminder of the entire artwork created for the event and its profound significance.





DOCU-FILM

"Beyond The Clouds" does not want to be just an event, but an indelible trace, carrying a precise message. Following this aspiration, the entire event will be followed and filmed by the production company **Arbalak**, under the direction of **Gianluca Gargano**, director, producer and screenwriter fresh from the filming of "*In viaggio con Lei*", a docufilm that has already received numerous awards at various international festivals.

An original docufilm, filmed during the entire creative process, which will recount the soul of the project, its birth, the lives of the artists, the war, up to the creation of the artwork and its offering to the public.

A documentary that will collect the feelings and voices of the artists and all those involved in the project, spread its message and preserve its memory.





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