

Fabulae Romanae is a body of work by the artist duo Lucy + Jorge Orta that takes the viewer on a symbolic excursus across the city of Rome, drawn from archaeological and historical research conducted by the artists and their observations on the cultural and social map of the city and its seven hills. Starting from the most cherished form of the artists duo's language: the tent, Dome Dwelling and accompanied by the protagonists of their research the Spirits, who take on the form of ethereal and mysterious figures that inhabit the city. This publication brings together the installation of Lucy + Jorge Orta's work in MAXXI, the National Museum of XXI Century Arts in Rome and the video performance in which the contemporary sentinel Spirits silently explore the Roman city accompanied by the poetic verses of Mario Petrucci: we encounter the Traveler under the Castel Sant'Angelo bridge and in the Trastevere back streets; the Observer overlooking the Sacro Cuore dei Monti and the Isola Tiberina; the Tunneler and the Myth Maker in the Villa Gregoriana Park; the Flying Man, Chariot Rider, Memory Man, Bale Maker... Fabulae Romanae assumes the meaning of "homage" to Rome and was commissioned by ZegnArt with the curatorial advisor by Maria-Luisia Frisa.



LUCY + JORGE ORTA FABULAE ROMANAE



FABULAE ROMANAE

LUCY + JORGE ORTA

Marsilio

ZegnArt | Marsilio

ZegnArt

FABULAE ROMANAE
LUCY + JORGE ORTA

MAXXI
National Museum of XXI
Century Arts, Rome
March 22 – September 23,
2012
part of MAXXI Arte Collezione
TRIDIMENSIONALE

Curated by
Maria Luisa Frisa

A commission by
Ermenegildo Zegna
ZegnArt
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In collaboration with
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FOREWORD

by **ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA**
Chief Executive Officer

The story of the collaboration with Lucy and Jorge Orta is the story of a special encounter between a family business whose heart lies in textiles and an artist duo that has often worked with fabrics to create artworks that are defined in relation to our complex society full of contradictions.

A reunion of two worlds that have found a common ground for exchange of ideas and that has given birth to a well-constructed project in which the vision of art and that of fashion are interwoven in a new dimension capable of speaking about contemporary life.

We have commissioned to Lucy and Jorge Orta an installation for the MAXXI, the National Museum of XXI Century Arts, with the support of the Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion and with Maria Luisa Frisa as curator. The artists have created with *Fabulae Romanae*, an intense vision of Rome that does not neglect any of the most pressing problems of our time.

The important work developed with Lucy and Jorge Orta is described in all its phases in this publication, enriched by a series of essays. It is the first chapter of ZegnArt, an ambitious project, launched this year, which sees the Zegna Group engaged on the front line of contemporary art. ZegnArt brings together under a single common objective a series of projects that we intend to develop in Italy and abroad. We want to create continual opportunities for direct involvement, working in close contact with institutions, curators and artists through shared approaches.

ZegnArt has emerged as a natural extension of the social commitment that our family and the Zegna Group have always supported and whose roots lie in the spirit of the founder, for whom ethics, aesthetics and entrepreneurship were aspects of life closely interwoven. In more recent times All'aperto art project, an important experience of Fondazione Zegna involving permanent site-specific works created for Trivero, where the Zegna Wool Mill was founded, has demonstrated to us the pervasive capacity of art when it succeeds in listening and establishing a direct communication between artist and viewer.

ZegnArt is the expression of our way of being and doing business. In our vision it is the premise for the creation of new ways of thinking, new ties and occasions of dialogue with different worlds and partners.

What characterizes the project is its immateriality: ZegnArt is not a museum; it is not a collection or a center of cultural production. Rather ZegnArt is the mobile and shifting space of contemporary existence. A place in movement that each time finds opportunities of exchange and growth in different and distant territories that oblige us to change our point of view continually and contend with the aspirations of a society in rapid evolution. The ambition is to draw maps in which the capacity of art to grasp the rapid transformations of our time and the communicative power of fashion can give rise to unprecedented narrations able to convey the sense of our present.