

Press release

**The Embassy of Italy in Turkey, the Italian Institute of Culture in Istanbul, Yapı Kredi Cultural Activities Arts and Publishing, the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Turkey and AlbumArte**

in the frame work of: "*Orizzonti-Italiani 2014*"

are proud to present

**FLAVIO FAVELLI**

***Grape Juice***

**A solo exhibition at Galata Rum Okulu (the *Galata* Greek School)**

Kemeraltı Caddesi No: 25, Galata, Beyoğlu/ İstanbul

**from May 17<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Press Preview: Friday May 16<sup>th</sup> 4.00 pm**

**opening on: Friday 16 May, at 6pm**

**Opening hours: from Tuesday to Saturday 11.00 am – 7.00 pm**

**conceived by Cristina Cobianchi | AlbumArte Rome**

**curated by Vittorio Urbani**

**Flavio Favelli** (born Florence, 1967) is the Italian artist-in-residence for the third edition of the *Anteprima* event promoted by the **AlbumArte Association**, which is due to be held at *Palazzo Venezia, the residence in Istanbul of the Ambassador of Italy in Turkey*.

During his six weeks of residency in Istanbul the artist will realize a series of works for his solo show, entitled *Grape Juice*, that will be held **from May 16<sup>th</sup> until June 14<sup>th</sup> 2014** in the **Main Hall of the Galata Rum Okulu** (the Galata Greek Primary School), one of the most important exhibition sites of the 13th Istanbul Biennial (2013).

As the curator Vittorio Urbani points out: "the point of an exhibition based on an artist's residency is that of testing the artist's capacity to react to a different environment. This capacity must also consist of a certain speed because there is so little time available between the initial emotion of his inspiration and the concrete realization of his work. In Istanbul Flavio Favelli will be responding to a society that has been examining its attitudes towards the concept of Modernity for the last two centuries, and whose international "success" has recently been shadowed by political difficulties and social unrest".

Flavio Favelli was born in Florence artist, but he is Bolognese by adoption. He has developed his artistic practice on the basis of an intimate and very personal concept of time and space. By

assembling various objects such as gates, benches, doors, railings, balconies, chairs, tables, beds, mirrors, carpets and chandeliers, the artist creates works that appear to be functional and that transform the atmosphere of the settings where they are placed while charging them with emotions.

The curator Vittorio Urbani writes: "Artistic practice may vary enormously nowadays, but it basically concerns the most diverse and often bizarre media, within the rather flat panorama of a homogeneous "post avant-garde" conformism. Instead, Favelli's work clearly establishes a narrative which connects with visual coherence and gives the colour of emotions to the objects he collects and then reassembles. New meanings are added to objects that were formerly merely functional, and these meanings act as a *voice behind the scene*, which is added to their original significance".

Flavio Favelli's installations focus on the aesthetic and poetic value of the everyday objects that surround us. His work is a continuous attempt to re-elaborate his feelings of disorientation. For example, the mosaic of mirrors in an antique frame breaks up the reflected image, and this bizarre synthesis thus seems to express the arbitrary and fragmented nature of our relationship with the world.

The curator also observes: "Interestingly Favelli often chooses functional, middle class (and not luxurious) decorative items and furniture that have a certain pretension, but that are nevertheless cheap or affordable. These kinds of furnishings have a strong role of self representation for the Italian middle class which also the artist's family belongs to. There is a small chandelier from a living room or a chest of drawers from the bedroom of a married couple who are struggling to keep up a decorous appearance and save face on a meagre salary. But the chandelier shines brightly nevertheless and the chest of drawers has interesting handmade carvings and inlays crafted by a provincial carpenter. Everything in Flavio Favelli's work resonates with these contrasts: high and low, good quality and cheapness. But the emotions of the lives of those who originally used these objects are represented with sincerity".

Flavio Favelli has already held two exhibitions in Istanbul curated by Vittorio Urbani, at the Maçka Modern Art Gallery and the Elgiz Museum. ***Grape Juice will be his first solo exhibition in Istanbul.***

The programme of *Anteprima#3* (a project by AlbumArte) for the residency and exhibition of Flavio Favelli will include two meetings open to the public:

- **May 8th at 7.00 pm:** The Bilgi University (Ma in Cultural Management) in the cycle "*Thursday Talks at Studio X*" presents the talk (in English): *Istanbul according to Flavio Favelli. An artist-in-residence* Studio-X Istanbul Meclis-i Mebusan 35A 34433, Salipazari, Istanbul, (Mobile +90 532 176 3227)
- **Saturday May 17th at 5.00 pm:** The art critics **Cristiana Perrella** and **Paola Ugolini**, the director of the Italian art magazine *Exibart* **Adriana Polveroni** and the curator **Vittorio Urbani** present *A Conversation with Flavio Favelli* at the theatre of the *Casa d'Italia* Italian Institute of Culture in Istanbul (Meşrutiyet Caddesi, no. 75, Tepebaşı, Beyoğlu) with a simultaneous Italian/Turkish translation.

AlbumArte thanks the **Studio SALES gallery of Norberto Ruggeri, in Rome.**

**Flavio Favelli** was born in Florence in 1967 and he lives and works in Savigno (Bologna), Italy. He graduated in Oriental History at the University of Bologna in 1993 and took part in the Link Project from 1995 to 2001. Favelli has exhibited in numerous museums, galleries, public and private spaces in Italy and abroad, such as Galleria Francesca Minini, Milan (2014), the SALES gallery, Rome (2010 and 2013); the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation (2007) and Castello di Rivoli (2012) in Turin; the Maison Rouge in Paris (2007); the Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles (2004); the Maze Gallery, Turin (2003); and in two important international group exhibitions: *Italics* (the Palazzo Grassi in

Venice and the MOCA in Chicago, 2009) and *Spazio* (the MAXXI Museum in Rome, 2010). He has participated in two editions of the Venice Biennale: the 55th (2013), at the Italian Pavillion curated by B. Pietromarchi and the 50th (2003), in the *Clandestini* section, curated by F. Bonami. In 2012 he was invited to the 11th Havana Biennial in Cuba.

In 2014, he was invited by the AlbumArte Association to be the artist-in-residence at the Italian Embassy in Turkey, while for 2015 he has been invited to be the artist-in-residence of the NARS Foundation in New York. In 2010 he was the artist-in-residence at the American Academy in Rome for the Italian Fellowship.

Favelli has created two installations that are also functioning bars at the MAMbo in Bologna and the MARCA in Catanzaro and in two permanent public spaces: *Vestibolo* in the foyer of the ANAS building in Venice (in 2005) and *Sala d'Attesa*, in the Pantheon of the busts in the Monumental Cemetery of the Certosa of Bologna where funeral ceremonies are held (in 2008). In 2009 he was the artist chosen for *Acrobazie #5*, a project for the Unicredit bank at the *Fatebenefratelli* Centre of San Colombano at Lambro (Milan).

Many of the artist's works are in private and public collections in Italy and abroad such as the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo contemporary art foundation of Turin; the MAMbo and the Furla Foundation in Bologna, the Maison Rouge - Antoine De Galbert Foundation in Paris; the *Civiche Raccolte d'Arte* and Art Fair Collection in Milan; the MACRO, the Nomas Foundation and the MAXXI in Rome; the Contemporary Art Museum of Villa Croce in Genoa; the Anita Zabludowicz Collection of London and the Elgiz Collection of Istanbul. In 2008 the MAXXI Museum of Rome acquired his monumental work entitled "La Terza Camera".

**AlbumArte** is a non-profit cultural association active in Italy and abroad, based in Rome. The artistic director of AlbumArte and its new exhibition space at Via Flaminia 122, is Maria Rosa Sossai. ([www.albumarte.org](http://www.albumarte.org))

**Yapı Kredi Cultural Activities, Arts and Publishing** for many decades has acted with the aim of enriching the culture and the vitality of art in the country as well as implementing various high quality art projects, which are available free of charge to everybody. The publishing arm, Yapı Kredi Publications (YKY) is the largest publisher in Turkey. It aims to offer its readers a first-rate selection of works of Turkish and international scene. Poetry, philosophy, literature, art, history and children's books, as its main lines of production, Yapı Kredi Publications covers a wide field of activities and a unique position in the publications world. YKY fills a large gap in the readers' market by publishing periodicals, *Sanat Dünyamız*, *Cogito* and *Kitap-lık*, which deal with art, philosophy and literature. All through the year the various locations of the Yapı Kredi Cultural Centre house over 100 events and exhibitions on archeology, theatre, literature, photography and art history.

**Cristina Cobiانchi** was born in Venice and she currently lives and works in Rome. She has supervised a number of contemporary art projects in Italy and abroad and has collaborated with several institutions, such as Italian Cultural Institutes, public museums such as the MAXXI (the National Museum of 21st Century Arts) and private exhibition centres like the *Chiostro del Bramante* in Rome, besides working with cultural associations and non-profit organizations in Rome, which include the *Accademia di San Luca*, the *Accademia di Romania* and the *Auditorium della Conciliazione*, to mention just a few. Her project *Anteprima/Preview*, which includes a programme of residencies for artists in Italy and abroad, was inaugurated in 2011 and continues to be active in various locations. She is the president of the *AlbumArte* cultural association.

**Vittorio Urbani** was born in Ferrara (Italy), and he now lives and works in Venice. He has organized contemporary art exhibitions in Istanbul and contributed to the organization of the official participation of Turkey and various Middle Eastern countries at the Venice Art Biennial. Since 1993 he has been director of the non-profit cultural association for the arts based in Venice *Nuova Icona*, with which he has organized and curated various exhibitions in Italy and abroad. He is particularly interested in developing

artistic projects and cultural exchanges with Turkey and the countries of the Middle East.  
([www.nuovaicona.org](http://www.nuovaicona.org))

**Visioni Future** was founded in 2009 in Potenza (Italy) with the aim of supporting young artists to develop their careers and to encourage the interest of the wider public in contemporary art, by organizing exhibitions and educational programs combined with information services regarding the visual arts. *Visioni Future* particularly facilitates the debut of young Italian artists by making them known in the international contemporary art world, encouraging them to travel and helping them to raise funds. ([info@visionifuture.org](mailto:info@visionifuture.org))

**The exhibition is part of *Anteprima#3* - involving Flavio Favelli as artist-in-residence from April 12<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Palazzo Venezia/ Venedik Sarayı, the residence in Istanbul of the Ambassador of Italy in Turkey (Beyoğlu, Istanbul)**

**An event realized by the Embassy of Italy in Turkey, the Italian Institute of Culture in Istanbul, Yapı Kredi Cultural Activities Arts and Publishing, the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Turkey and AlbumArte.**

**Catalogue produced by Visioni Future.**

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