

'Do not lose
your spirit'



Non perdere
l'anima

MY STORY

As someone who grew up in the Italian Alps, I draw inspiration primarily from my childhood memories, based on the magical surroundings of the hidden Valleys in Trentino.

Whilst i lay in the forest in trentino I share my tactile senses through poetry:

*The soft and delicate feeling of grass tickling the body.
The smell of pine trees dancing in the air.
The sound of river water crashing on stone.
The calm shade of green covers the view of the eyes.*



LIVING INSTALLATION

You are invited to walk around and play with the toys. Each unique interaction will make the installation come to life, turning it into a "living" installation. The toys can move and react to people when touched.

The performance allows us to reconnect with our spirit through exploring the freedom to play. Whilst using the senses to trigger emotions, memories, and fantasies lost within us.

A poetic invitation to the viewers:

*Look closely. Listen. Learn. Observe.
Explore your senses. Feel, smell, touch, listen.
Play. Be responsible, It's fragile. Be aware.*

HISTORY

Wood and Wool have influenced the costumes of Trentino. During the winter days when the villages are tucked under a thick layer of snowfall, the population become busy with an abundance of crafts. The woman worked by hand weaving on ancient loom using their family sourced wool while the man carved the wood found in the woodland nearby.

Something that motivated my work was a annual celebration written in the Folklore history of Trentino. It is called in dialect, " Desmontegada", which means descend the mountains. The farm animals are dressed in colorful decorations and parade through the streets of the villages to then reach their winter home. I have created my version of this folklore celebration where wild animals dance and perform , giving them the center stage.



Francesca Zadra

WOODEN TOYS

The live creatures investigate my iconographic heritage and bring to life the secrets hidden in the mountains of Val di Rabbi. We must listen to the soul of the forest and welcome the fantasy and creativity. The presence of mystical animals in the woods is an integral part of the Alpin system. They also plant a seed in the imagination of the humans who hear about their tails and tricks.

Colour plays a big role in the sculptures, their vibrancy brings to life the playfulness of how I felt as a child.

MATERIALS

Wool and wood are two contrasting materials, but through manipulation i can get them to work in unison. I'm playing with the opposites; hard and soft, smooth and rough, I'm wrapping, weaving, carving, cutting, burning. There is choreography in the transformation of each piece. My Interaction with the material are so direct, so spontaneous, so straightforward.

With the hopes to create a intimate contact with nature, i learn from the raw materials as i go, inspecting thier natural grain, knots and fibres and use these elements to guide me. I can use these characteristics to render the sense of organic life, breath and movement so expressively.

Using only traditional tools and having the patiences to listen to what the material needs. The wool used is sourced from a shepherd, Gino Penasa from Val di Rabbi. It has been treated with care by my hands, following the old recipes once used by the woman of the village.

I have used primitive binders I sourced from the wild, pine resin and beeswax have fixative and wellness properties, i have utilised these to add a new dimension of texture and senses.

LIVE PERFORMANCE

Exploring further I intend to build part of the installation in the forest of Val di Rabbi, Trentino, as it is the location with the most remarkable memories of my childhood. Manipulating materials I find around me in the forest. I will leave the performance to continue by leaving it in the forest and handing it over, back to the natural world. This poem narrates what could emerge from the performance:



*What is going to happen? Nature's choreography is unpredictable.
Nature never finishes, It's a cycle. Always changing.
Change conditions of time, weather, season, animals.
The sculpture is breathing, It's alive, it's wild.*