

## HALF A HOUSE

10 > 14/05/2017

Palazzina Ex-Fabbri (Florence)

within the Fabbrica Europa festival

*Half a House* is a 5 day project initiated by the artists Sonia Gómez (ES), Leonardo Delogu (IT), Brogan Davison (UK), Gosie Vervloessem (BE) and Pétur Ármannsson (IS) as part of the European project N.O.W New Open Working process for the performing arts, taking place in Florence from 10 to 14 May 2017 within the Fabbrica Europa Festival.

*Half a House* is inspired by the work of the Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena, who after the earthquake and tsunami in 2010 in Chile, built half houses that could be finished by its inhabitants according to their own needs and in their own taste. *Half a House* explores this notion of co-creation of a space, not completely shaped and closed, and aims to subvert the negative value often associated with the notion of unfinished in a neo-liberal view and paradigm. As the disasters in Chile led to a new and adaptive domestic model, *Half a House* is an artistic reaction to the transitions happening in the art sector today – replacing existing hierarchies with an experimental space creating alternative conditions for purposeful relationships.

*Half a House* is an invitation to investigate what artistic practice would look like if, in times of pressure, we don't put all our energy in finishing the walls: what if we leave the house 'half' and take time to reflect and restructure, explore new ways of operating, faced with the wind blowing through the unfinished walls? Instead of resurrecting the walls, *Half a House* proposes to renovate by 'sharing' practices and ideas, merging workspace and daily life between different players within and outside of the arts field – curators, artists, programmers, theoreticians, scientists, activists, social workers – researching questions related to artistic practice and beyond: How can one be productive and fragile at the same time? Can openness be a force and a possibility for navigating in a moment of drastic changes? Can collaboration/co-creation and sharing be a new method and model for our working relationships?

*Half a House* is an artistic investigation collectively carried out through a co-living format, merging daily tasks and abstract topics, workshops, experiences, guests and performances. Themes of private and public, fragility and the unknown will be further explored through the process of the co-creation of a living and working space, a co-habitation of different partners in an artistic process who explore sharing as a condition and a practice to keep the work unfinished and the winds blowing.

The participants will co-habitate with the N.O.W. artists and partners and the physicality of the space itself will be a process of sharing. Sonia Gómez, Leonardo Delogu, Brogan Davison, Gosie Vervloessem and Pétur Ármannsson, the partners of the N.O.W. network and ten artists selected through a Call (Fabio Ciaravella, Claudio Beorchia, Margherita Isola, Greta Francolini, Anna Marocco, Justin Randolph Thompson, Laura Perrone, Giulia Dellavalle, Elisa Decet, Chiara Orefice) will build and craft their own private space as well as the communal areas. Mobile and flexible modules will be used and organized by the artists, partners and participants accordingly to the activities and the questions that arise in the

process. This will create an ephemeral and dynamic house ready to change and react to needs and functions. Through working in a horizontal structure and playing with the concept of hierarchy, the project aims to create a community that supports the sharing of knowledge, interdisciplinary practice, openness and risk.

## **PROGRAM**

**Wed, May 10**

### **DAY ONE\_HOSPITALITY**

*on the idea of threshold, on welcoming, on the boundaries in and out*

17:00 – Vernissage and cocktail

18:00 – Collective walking to Stazione Leopolda

**Thu, May 11**

### **DAY TWO\_FRAGILITY**

*on invisible forces, contamination and collective movements that affect our actions, on the fragility of the self and the illusion of control*

16:00 – Open House: games, explorations, experiences

*How can you separate a space without dividing it?*

17:30 – Knocking at the door\_Renaud Loda, artist and geobiologist

18:30 – Cocktail

19:00 – Presentation\_Sonia Gomez, *Bailarina*

**Fri, May 12**

### **DAY THREE\_PERMEABILITY**

*on domestic spaces and the cultural idea of 'home' connected to the domus conception and to safeness: from intimacy in a wide sense, from physical matter to emotional proximity, matching nomadism and settlement*

16:00 – Open House: games, explorations, experiences

*How can we make our home permeable to forces of the surrounding landscape?*

17:30 – Knocking at the door\_Matteo Meschiari, anthropologist

18:30 – Cocktail

19:00 – Presentation\_Leonardo Delogu, *Anatomia del camminare*

**Sat, May 13**

### **DAY FOUR\_AGENCY**

16:00 – Open House: cardboard workshop for kids

*How can you be productive and fragile at the same time?*

17:30 – Knocking at the door\_Richard Ingersoll, architecture historian

18:30 – Cocktail

19:00 – Presentation\_Gosie Vervloessem, *Recipes for disaster*

**Sun, May 14**

### **DAY FIVE\_INTIMACY**

*on vulnerability, from body membranes to emotions exposure, on how edgy the boundary between public and private is nowadays*

16:00 – Open House: games, explorations, experiences  
*Can openness be a force for navigating in a moment of drastic changes?*

17:30 – Knocking at the door\_Andrea Staid, antropologo

18:30 – Cocktail

19:00 – Presentation\_Brogan Davison & Pétur Ármannsson, *The Brogan Davison Show*







