

BLITZ

VALLETTA

Blitz is pleased to present **SOMETHING ABOUT YOU**, a ten-year survey exhibition of
Marinella Senatore, curated by Sara Dolfi Agostini.

OPENING 3 MARCH 2022, 3–6 PM

Blitz, 68 St Lucia Street, Valletta.

After the opening, a talk between the curator and artist Marinella Senatore will be held at the
Istituto Italiano di Cultura La Valletta.

PUBLIC TALK 3 MARCH 2022, 6:30PM

Istituto Italiano di Cultura La Valletta, St George Square, Valletta. Booking is mandatory and
green pass required. LINK: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marinella-senatore-something-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marinella-senatore-something-about-you-post-opening-talk-at-the-iic-tickets-275487258807)

[about-you-post-opening-talk-at-the-iic-tickets-275487258807](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marinella-senatore-something-about-you-post-opening-talk-at-the-iic-tickets-275487258807)



BLITZ, 68 ST LUCIA STREET, VALLETTA – VLT1181 – www.blitzvalletta.com – contact@blitzvalletta.com

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On the same day, Blitz will launch an open call for a new chapter of Senatore's ambitious performance, The School of Narrative Dance, a large-scale participatory project, experienced by over 6 million participants in 24 countries to date. The open call will be available on Blitz's website and social media. The performance will take place in Malta's capital, Valletta, also a UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the dates will be announced soon in accordance with health regulations. A new artwork will be developed from the performance and exhibited at Blitz as part of a finissage celebration of this ambitious project.

Marinella Senatore is a multidisciplinary artist who creates communities from assemblies of people whose common bonds have yet to be explored in ordinary social life. Over the years, Senatore has developed a methodology that delves into practices of non-hierarchical learning and participatory art, exploring forms of resistance, vernacular and popular culture, dance, music and activism, with the intention of rethinking the political nature of communal action and reconciling individuals and collective bodies, often considered dichotomic entities in capitalist culture. To do so, she has experimented with radio broadcasts, street festivals, choral operas, musicals and processions such as the internationally acclaimed *The School of Narrative Dance* (2012-ongoing).

Something about you brings together paintings, drawings, videos, a new site-specific sculpture and a public art work. *Remember the first time you saw your name* (2020) is a powerful phrase in a bold red light composition dominating St George Square, Valletta for the duration of the exhibition. The artwork is an enchanting blast from the past, evoking the Maltese custom of celebrating community during village festas and annual events with festoons, *luminarie* and light installations.

The exhibition **Something about you** should be understood as a tribute to museum visitors, casual onlookers who come across her sculptures in the public space or find inspiration in the open calls of the participatory project *The School of Narrative Dance* - even those who have never set foot in an art space before. Senatore puts them at the heart of the artistic action. As she conjures starting points, intersections and junctions to engage with people and their unique stories, she removes herself from the soapbox of the educator and lays the foundation for dialogue, a two-way exchange intended to encourage growth – and awareness – for all parties involved.

This exhibition is intended to inspire dialogue in Malta, at a time when collective action seems to be the most effective tool for new beginnings and the birth of communities. As put by bio-political philosopher Judith Butler: "Freedom does not come from me or from you; it can and does happen as a relation between us, or, indeed, among us." While emphasizing the stories and hidden potentials of individuals, Senatore does not distinguish between so-called low and high culture, and embraces the power of decontextualization to open up conceptual windows into an ever-changing humanity represented in plural form.

MARINELLA SENATORE (Cava de' Tirreni, Italy, 1977; lives in Rome, Italy) is a multidisciplinary artist, trained in music, fine arts and cinema. Senatore's work has been featured in group and solo exhibitions in Italy and around the world, including in biennals such as Biennale Gherdëina, Italy (2021); São Paulo Biennial, Brazil (2021); Sonsbeek 20-24, The Netherlands (2021); Manifesta 12, Italy (2018); Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture, Shenzhen, China (2017); Lyon Biennale, France (2015); Thessaloniki Biennial, Greece (2015); Liverpool Biennial, UK (2014), Cuenca Biennial, Ecuador (2014), Göteborg Biennial, Sweden (2013), Athens Biennial, Greece (2013); Havana Biennial, Cuba (2012) and Venice Biennale, Italy (2011). Her most recent solo exhibitions and performances were organized at Fondazione Stelline, Milan, Italy (2021); Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy (2020); Magazzino Italian Art, New York, U.S. (2020); Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2018); Peggy Guggenheim, Venice, Italy (2018); Kunsthau Zurich, Switzerland (2017); Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (2017); Queens Museum, New York, U.S. (2017). Senatore's work is represented in the collections of a wide selection of international museums including Palazzo Grassi in Venice, Italy; Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France; Centro de Arte Dos

de Mayo in Madrid, Spain; Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt, Germany; Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago, U.S.; Queens Museum and High Line in New York, U.S.; Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Sweden. In 2023 she will have solo exhibitions at CCA Tel Aviv, Museum Villa Stuck Munich, Germany, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria, and at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France.

EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Friday, 2pm to 5pm

Saturday 10am to 1pm

Sunday to Tuesday, closed

INFO contact@blitzvalletta.com



PRESS IMAGE

Marinella Senatore, *The School of Narrative Dance*

Photo by Stella Olivier

Courtesy of the Center for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg and Castello di Rivoli

Download: <https://blitzvalletta.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Marinella-Senatore-School-Of-Narrative-Dance-photo-by-Stella-Olivier-scaled.jpg>

EXHIBITION POSTER

Download: <https://blitzvalletta.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Marinella-Senatore-poster-opening.pdf>

BLITZ VALLETTA was founded in 2013 as a grassroots, artist-run contemporary arts space, and it is housed in a four-level, typical Valletta townhouse, which was originally the family home of founder Alexandra Pace's grandparents. After standing empty for over 30 years, the building slowly started returning to life through a dedicated and steady restoration process. Now, Blitz is a reference for contemporary art in Malta, and each of its floors shines in its full former glory with a project space for public programmes and workshops, an in-house artist residency and the exhibition galleries. Since its founding, Blitz has formed an identity and a presence which has extended beyond the island to the international art world, through prominent collaborations with institutions such as Royal College of Arts (London), Central Saint Martins University of the Arts (London), the European Graduate School (EGS) and the annual Network of European Museum Organizations conference (NEMO). In 2015 Blitz launched the Residency Programme which invited artists from Berlin, London, Wroclaw, Athens, Kuwait, Paris and Istanbul to participate via open calls with more than 200 applicants. Also, Blitz has received important mentions by ArtBasel Crowdfunding initiative (2015), and Tate Art Exchange Programme (2016). Today, Blitz's international programme reflects the institution's commitment to support and showcase Malta-based artists abroad, for example Paris Internationale in 2021. Simultaneously, our exhibitions and public programmes at home are mainly dedicated to established international artists. Their works have never been exhibited in Malta before, yet specifically resonate with Malta's unique history, culture and social landscape as much as with the major challenges of our present society. Blitz's activities have been featured in some of the most relevant international media – Artforum, Folha de S.Paulo, Flash Art International, Mousse Magazine, Weltkunst, Sole 24 ORE, Artribune and Abitare.

THE EXHIBITION AND PERFORMANCE ARE SUPPORTED BY

