

- I.D.E.A.
- country unlimited
- project photography

CASCINA MARIA

A new concept-space for contemporary art has been set up in Agrate Conturbia by Nicoletta Rusconi

A country farmstead in the province of Novara will be the location of a new residential project for artists, a sculpture park and temporary exhibition projects devoted to photography

RICCARDO BERETTA is the first artist to be invited to take part in the I.D.E.A. – Independent Domus Exhibiting Art residential project

11th July – 16th November 2017

in partnership with Francesca Minini, Milan

LUCA GILLI is the first photographer to be invited to exhibit on the farmstead from 16th September – 16th November 2017

in partnership with paola sosio contemporary art | milano

Sculptures by FRANCESCO ARENA, MIROSLAW BALKA, MATTHIAS BITZER, MONICA BONVICINI, MATTIA BOSCO, LATIFA ECHAKHCH, DAN GRAHAM, PAOLO ICARO, CARLO RAMOUS and MARKUS SCHINWALD will be the main attractions in the first collection of *Country Unlimited* works on display in the park

16th September – 16th November 2017

Official opening on Saturday, 16th September 2017



Cascina Maria, a country residence just a few kilometres away from Lake Maggiore that will become an innovative concept-space for contemporary art managed by Nicoletta Rusconi, will officially open on 16th September. The country house, which comprises two large buildings and a spacious park, will host a new residential project for artists, a sculpture garden and temporary projects devoted to photography, after it has undergone important renovation work.

I.D.E.A. – Independent Domus Exhibiting Art is a residential project for artists devised by Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects, which will host an Italian artist and then a foreign artist on an alternating basis,

twice-a-year for a six-month period. The artists will be invited to study the relationship between art and nature and create new works inspired by the location. The residential project will provide artists with the chance to leave the hustle and bustle of the city and surround themselves with nature, so that they can rediscover a greater sense of intimacy in harmony with the natural environment.

The first artist invited to take part is the Italian Riccardo Beretta (Milan, 1982) - in partnership with Francesca Minini Gallery - who has been asked to study the natural setting not just as a framework for the residential project, but as a thought-provoking environment.

Studying the intricate relations between man and nature always leads to the creation of art works: I.D.E.A will make Cascina Maria the ideal place for creating works, which, drawing on every imaginable stylistic language, focus on the use of organic materials and natural forms.

The results of the various artists' experimentation will be displayed in solo exhibitions held inside Cascina Maria's Project Room and then discussed at subsequent study meetings based around the works created during the residential project.

Riccardo Beretta's exhibition hosted in the Project Room will take place from 16th September-16th November 2017. At the same time, Nicoletta Rusconi is arranging for a large new sculpture the artist created for the residential project to be placed on display in the park.

The meeting during which Riccardo Beretta will elaborate upon his experience at Cascina Maria is planned to take place in October 2017 at the Milan Triennial. The first publication about Cascina Maria and its three projects will also be presented on this occasion.

Cascina Maria's spacious exteriors will, on the other hand, be the setting for Country Unlimited: a park designed exclusively for displaying important, large-size, environmental sculptures by internationally renowned contemporary artists. Nicoletta Rusconi will be working with the most prestigious Italian galleries on the Country Unlimited project, which will be presenting a range of ambitious projects aimed at creating a large "outdoor gallery".

The first exhibition event being held from 16th September-16th November 2017 will host works by **Francesco Arena, Miroslaw Balka, Matthias Bitzer, Monica Bonvicini, Mattia Bosco, Latifa Echakhch, Dan Graham, Paolo Icaro, Carlo Ramous and Markus Schinwald**, thanks to a working partnership with the following galleries: Raffaella Cortese, Kaufmann Repetto, Giò Marconi, Francesca Minini, Massimo Minini and the architect Walter Patscheider.

Just like any other traditional farmstead in the Piedmont region, Cascina Maria has spacious areas connecting one floor to another. The large walls around the staircases will provide room for accommodating temporary artistic photography projects in partnership with galleries operating in this sector. The Italian Luca Grilli (Reggio Emilia, 1965) will be the first photographer invited to display in this setting from 16th September-16th November 2017, in partnership with paola sosio contemporary art | milano.

Finally, the three apartments belonging to Cascina Maria will host works by artists who have worked with Nicoletta Rusconi over the years, transforming the premises into an unusual gallery where the hosts will be able to reconstruct the various artists' different backgrounds and careers through catalogues, special editions and testimonies. It is worth noting that Cascina Maria contains a number of site-specific works from Nicoletta Rusconi's own private collection, including wallpaper painted by **Donatella Spaziani**, wall-paper designed by **Davide Tranchina**, flooring designed by **Flavio Favelli** and a mysterious door that is the work of **Alexej Koschkarov**.

Cascina Maria will be turned into a concept-space for contemporary art in all its most distinctive forms, a residency for artists but also a place where art lovers can come to relax and recuperate or take walks through nature in close vicinity to the local golf courses and numerous stables.

CASCINA MARIA

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From 16th September, visits must be booked in advance.

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