

## PRESS RELEASE

**Kajaani Art Museum** is pleased to host the group exhibition entitled *Transitions of Energy*, featuring the following participating artists: **Flavia Bigi, casaluce/geiger & synusi@cyborg, Juliana Herrero, Sissa Micheli, Francesca Romana Pinzari**. Five international artists who live in Austria, France, Italy, and Slovakia, and who travel between these countries, have created works that focus on different sources of energy and its transitions. The curator of the exhibition is the Italian art historian **Lorella Scacco**.

The exhibition *Transitions of Energy* investigates how energy interacts with the stream of life in different fields. Modern society relies almost totally on energy: mechanic, electric, chemical, and thermal forms of energy are largely exploited in all industrial organization and production processes. Still, there are other forms of energy such as spiritual, passionate, and social ones, which have been the driving forces for mankind since time immemorial. These forms of energy have inspired much artmaking: the works of the five artists showcased in this exhibition, for instance, span different forms of energy, which are engaged in an interplay with the stream of life.

**Flavia Bigi** focuses on the research of inner spirituality. Her installation entitled *Pay Attention II* is composed of seven cubic forms, which allude to the unavoidable dogmatism of many religions – all secluded within their pretension of unchangeable perfection. The absolute black surface is stigmatized and infringed by a single symbol, and the interplay of truth and illusion steps in. At the center of this circular installation appears the glass icon of human face, on which the artist engraved the mathematical formula of energy:  $E = mc^2$ . As a reminiscence of the Renaissance, she puts humanity to the core of our ritual choices. Her research also pushes into the realm of fairy tales, which aim at guiding children's behaviour, as showed in the photographic series *Ada* and in the drawings from the cycle *Intimate Relationship*.

The philosophical approach of **casaluce/geiger & synusi@cyborg** analyses posthuman territory and cyborg stream of life between real and virtual dimension. The artist approaches the topic of energy by using its virtual dimension. Her multi-identity pervades the different platforms of the Internet in the form of a virus, which is often visually transformed into cryptography on photographs. In this context, a photo installation of the series *REHAB* (work in progress) will be presented. Here, energy has to be understood as that psychophysical process that requires re-activation of energy levels during a borderline experience where the subject is neither ill nor healthy. The work is a search for dialogue between what is related to the intimate and personal experience, but also a metaphor of reality stretched toward the social world, between the dimension linked to natural world, to water, air, muds, solar light as well as light impulses and electromagnetic waves. A crossover, in this case too, of the *post-human* dimension with all its open questions and reflections that affect us all. One video entitled *The heart* will be showed too.

**Juliana Herrero** tackles the subject of energy by dealing with digital found footage materials and sound recordings, which are fragmented and musically re-layered. As energy transforms, her work brings alienated worlds into surreal immersive "scapes" that produce atmosphere of affection. Her floating landscapes, such as *Milieu*, concern themselves with questions about the concepts of infinity and the construction of contingent realities, moving within the subtle and osmotic limits of inner and outer worlds. The emitter environment of *Milieu*, which whispers deconstructed messages and news originated on social networks of the Internet, opens space for reflection about the intimate relationship between human being and technology in the times of hyperconnectivity. The work emerges through transformation process as a reflection of light into ethereal materiality and sound. The artist will also exhibit some water colours and mixed media works from the series *Blues en Sol menor* and *Multipolaren*.

**Sissa Micheli's** video installation *A Mountain Phenomenon* focuses on the energy variations of light. Pictures of some silvery mountains move across space as they are projected on reflectors used in photography and filmmaking to redirect light towards a given object. As they turn, these mountains, made of rescue blankets, reflect and break light, enhancing its energetic potential. Artificially animated structures seem to challenge the physical rules of transformation of solar energy. The use of rescue blankets adds to the feeling of being in a state of emergency and invites us to reflect upon our times, as well as showed by the drawings of her cycle *Icicle caves in mountain landscapes*. Her works expose the global issue of the depletion of natural energy resources, while, on the other hand, constantly focusing on their temporal dimension.

**Francesca Romana Pinzari** works with physical interaction between people. In her video *The First Time We Kissed*, the artist tries to capture something as untouchable and indefinable as an emotion, and to stop a unique and unrepeatable moment to make it eternal. Ironically Francesca Romana Pinzari seizes this romantic and poetic emotion with technical and medical instruments. To create the video she used a thermic camera, two ECG machines and two microphones to record the sound of heartbeats. The project was executed thanks to the collaboration of two Italian universities, who supplied the artist with the necessary technical instruments. Her video installation *Get closer* invite viewers to lie on a bed beside the projected picture of the artist, who is filmed in her sleep.

*Transitions of Energy* will be hosted at the Kajaani Art Museum from 16th June to 11th September 2016. The exhibition tour started at Kunsthalle Bratislava in 2015 and will continue in 2017 to Museum of Kymenlaakso, Kotka, Finland and K. H. Renlund Museum, Kokkola, Finland.

The exhibition is supported by the **Italian Institute of Culture in Helsinki** and by the **Austrian Embassy in Helsinki**.

## TRANSITIONS OF ENERGY

KAJAANI ART MUSEUM 16.6.-11.9.2016

**Press conference:** June 15th 2016 at 10 a.m.

Present artists Flavia Bigi, Casaluce Geiger, Juliana Herrero and the curator of the exhibition, Lorella Scacco.

**Opening:** June 15th at 6-7 p.m.

Kajaani Art Museum  
Linnankatu 14, 87100 Kajaani, Finland  
<http://www.kajaani.fi/taidemuseo>  
<https://www.facebook.com/kajaanintaidemuseo>

Opening hours: Sun-Tue, Thu, Fri 10-17, Wed 12-20, Sat closed  
From 19.8. Fridays closed  
Admission free

