

# SPEAKING NEARBY

*Final event of the 2023/2024 Fellows*

## Biographies

### FELLOWS

**Jacopo Belloni** (1992) is an artist who questions the process of "theatricalizing" contemporary reality. He holds a Work.Master from HEAD – Genève and has exhibited in institutions including the Palazzo Delle Esposizioni, Rome; ADA, Rome; Kunsthalle, Bern; Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau; Palazzo Re Rebaudengo, Guarene (TO); Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva. In Rome, through sculpture and performance, he developed his research about symbolic technologies in the Italian rural world around the concept of « invention of traditions ».

**Valentine Bernasconi** (1994) is a PhD candidate in Digital Visual Studies at the University of Zurich. In her research project she studies the meaning of hand gestures in early modern paintings through computational approaches. She holds a degree in digital humanities from EPFL and studied computer science and art history at the University of Fribourg. In Rome, she pursued her research on the impact of new technologies on the practice of art history, engaging in a dialogue between art historians and institutions involved in processes of digitization of photographic collections.

**Chloé Delarue** (1986) is an artist who focuses on the complex relationship between digital technologies and living matter through the troubles that this produces on our perceptions. In 2021, she won the Pax Art Award and the Bourse de la Ville de Genève. She has exhibited at the Musée des Beaux-Arts La Chaux-de-Fonds and at the Kunsthaus Langenthal among others. In Rome, she conducted research-works collecting representative fragments of the mythical and contemporary history of the city, using photogrammetry.

**Anthony Ellis** (1986) is a postdoc researcher at the Institute of Classical Philology at the University of Bern. He focuses on ancient religion and cross-cultural encounters. He studied in Oxford and Edinburgh, where his PhD thesis (2013) explored the role of the gods in early Greek historical thought. In Rome, he reconstructed how the Byzantine philosopher and Neopagan Gemistos Pletho rewrote ancient historical texts, tracing Pletho's influence on the Greek refugees who migrated to Rome following the Ottoman conquests.

**Simone Holliger** (1986) is an artist who creates large-scale sculptures with a process-based approach. She has received several awards, including the Swiss Art Award (2019) and has exhibited at the Musée des Beaux-Arts La Chaux-de-Fonds and BF15 in Lyon. She holds a master's degree in fine arts from HEAD – Genève. In Rome, she dedicated herself to researching content, forms, and materials with reference to the urban and architectural space of the city.

**Jade Marie d'Avigneau** (1994) is a PhD candidate at the University of Lausanne. She studied Art history and Philosophy at the Universities of Florence, Munich and Lausanne. She received a faculty prize from the Dante Alighieri Society for her master's thesis. She has been in residence at the Centro per la Storia dell'Arte e dell'Architettura delle Città Portuali in Naples to work on her doctoral thesis on 15th and 16th-century Neapolitan funerary sculpture. In Rome, she continued her research, examining several aspects of Neapolitan sculpture, social history, and artistic exchanges during this period.

**Léa Katharina Meier** (1989) is a multidisciplinary artist. Through performance, textiles, drawing and writing, she develops narratives in which failure and ridicule are forms of healing. She won the Jury Prize and the Audience Prize at the Swiss Performance Award (2021). In Rome, she continued her research into the notions of shame, queer humour, and the library as a place of pleasure and laughter.

**Camilla Paolino** (1991) is a PhD candidate at the University of Geneva, where she investigates the material nexus articulated between reproductive and creative work in 1970s Italian art practice. In parallel, she animates the radio-art platform CANALE MILVA and the art space Lateral Roma. In Rome, she pursues her thesis on the contribution of art to the struggle for the reconfiguration of the traditional sexual division of labor organizing production within the artistic sphere as much as the socioeconomic one.

**Veronica Pecile** (1989) is a postdoctoral researcher in law and critical theory. Since 2023, she has been an affiliated researcher at the Lucernauris-Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies at the University of Lucerne. Previously, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Collegium Helveticum in Zurich and at Harvard Law School. She holds a PhD in Law and social sciences from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and a master's degree from Sciences Po - Paris. In Rome, she investigated the legal techniques and discourses through which the Italian colonies were established.

**Mia Sanchez** (1988) is an artist working with video, photography, and sculpture to explore social structures in the public sphere. She holds a master's degree from the FHNW in Basel and has exhibited in institutions such as Kunsthhaus Langenthal; Stadtgalerie, Bern; Istituto Svizzero, Milan. She received the Swiss Art Award (2022) and co-founded the art space Riverside. In Rome, she explored the impact of public space and our built realities on leisure time and how it influences social and economic practices.

**Sarina Scheidegger** (1985) is an artist and writer. Collaboration is one of the key aspects of her research and she often works with other artists, performers, and musicians. She holds a master's degree from HKB Bern and has received numerous grants and residencies: FLORA ars+natura, Pro Helvetia, Bogota, (2018), Swiss Performance Award (2012). In 2016 she founded «Stingray Editions» together with Kambiz Shafei to publish different formats and editions by various artists. In Rome, she developed performances and ceramic instruments that explore the relationship between amphorae and current debates on (hydro)feminism.

**Anna-Lena Wolf** (1984) is an anthropologist with a focus on the Anthropology of law and religion. She is a postdoc researcher and lecturer at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. In 2018, she completed her PhD thesis (University of Bern), in which she analyzed changing notions of justice on tea plantations in the Northeast Indian state of Assam. In Rome, she conducted ethnographic fieldwork in institutions of the Holy See to understand the relationship between legal change and divine agency in Catholic canon law.

## CURATOR

**Piersandra Di Matteo** Performing arts scholar, dramaturg, and curator. She is the artistic director of Short Theatre Festival in Rome (2021-2024), and member of the team research project «INCOMMON» and SSH! Sound Studies Hub at University IUAV of Venice, where she teaches "Curation in Performing Arts". She is appointed curator of the Multidisciplinary Residency in the Académie of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.