

Chiara Camoni

MANIFESTA 15
Barcelona, 2024
a cura di Hedwig Fijen e
Filipa Oliveira

Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana took on the challenge of expanding from one single Host City to an extended regional scale of more than 5 million inhabitants. The ambition of the 15th edition was to develop a decentralised and collaborative approach to knowledge production and cultural programming in alternative venues in the metropolitan region. This edition reimagined the role of an international biennial in an era defined by ecological and social transformation.

Manifesta 15 was organised in three clusters, which are both thematic and geographic: Balancing Conflicts (Llobregat Delta), Cure and Care (Collserola massif towards Vallès) and Imagining Futures (Besòs River and its surroundings).

Sisters, exhibition view
La CIBA, Santa Coloma de
Gramenet





Opened in 2020, La CIBA is an exemplary public facility for the women of Santa Coloma which aims to help women be independent in all aspects of their lives. It is also a hub for innovation and feminist creation with spaces focused on supporting cultural projects and training.

In her 1986 essay *Sisterhood: Political Solidarity between Women*, the American scholar and activist bell hooks makes the case for her titular subject as a means for breaking the hegemony of male-dominated narratives while fostering sisterly solidarity as a structural form of resistance. She draws on feminist thinking to promote a vision of sisterhood that is rooted in ancestral bonds and works to imagine a more equitable future. The Italian artist Chiara Camoni is captivated by sisterhood as a concept and is particularly interested in how sisterly alliances can be formed between humans and more-than-human beings. This interest led her to start her *Sisters* series (2017-ongoing), whereby she creates female deities with terracotta, clay and ash as well as herbs, leaves, berries and flowers that she collects in nature. Simultaneously beautiful and terrifying, Camoni's *Sisters* – guardians of the future –advocate for feminine bonds that transcend time and species, presiding over life and death alike.





Sister (Flowers), 2022

Black Etruscan terracotta, iron, insects, dried flowers and wild herbs

170 × 280 × 110 cm

Courtesy of the artist and SpazioA, Pistoia

Supported by Ammodo

Sister (degli Scarti) [Sister (of Scraps)], 2023

Polychrome terracotta, iron, dry plant matter, plastics and mixed material gathered during the workshop "Lo scarto incoffessabile" [The unmentionable waste]

150 × 220 × 150 cm

Courtesy of the artist and SpazioA, Pistoia

Supported by Ammodo



*Cani (Bruno e Tre) e
Vasi Farfalla*
Casa Gomis
El Prat de Llobregat





Cani (Bruno Tre), 2024
Aluminio e lana / aluminium and wool
80 × 250 × 150 cm
Cortesia de l'artista e SpazioA, Pistoia

Casa Gomis, also known as La Ricarda, served as a striking venue for Manifesta 15 Barcelona Metropolitana, embodying the harmony of modernist architecture and natural landscapes.

Its unique setting hosted site-specific installations and performances and workshops, fostering dialogue on heritage, creativity and the theme of "Balancing Conflicts" due its proximity to the airport of Barcelona. The debate around the extension of the airport was prominently accentuated by Manifesta 15's inclusion of the venue.

Two dogs made of aluminium sit and lay on a wool rug. They are modelled on the artist's own dog and that of her studio assistant, belonging to her domestic sphere. Their poses are natural and they are immersed in a familiar present; it as if they have always been guarding Casa Gomis. While they seem to inhabit an ordinary domestic situation, their material is crumbling. Throughout her practice, Camoni compares and contrasts temporal conditions. Can the dogs represent the disintegration of memory? Of time? If this house is to disappear with the expansion of the airport, what will its legacy be? What sentinels will guard it, as these dogs once did? Are they an artifact for the future? Whatever the case may be, this sculpture is an ode to the fleeting nature of existence and the ephemeral beauty of the everyday.







Vasi-Farfalla, 2020-2022
Stoneware glazed with flowers' ash,
vegetal elements
Variable dimensions
Courtesy of the artist and SpazioA,
Pistoia