



SELF-EXTENSION

MQBMBQ Queer Open Mic Night

My Queer Blackness, My Black Queerness

In celebration of all forms of Queer love, ***My Queer Blackness, My Black Queerness*** (@mqbmbq) presents **Self-Extension** — *A queer open mic night* at **Fondazione Sozzani** (@fondazioneozzani). In celebration of all forms of queer love, the event will feature a few performances by local queer poets, writers and musicians. The artist **Damsel Elysium** (@damsel.elysium) is also be present with a special performance to close the evening.

“Echoing the work of Erich Fromm, he defines love as ‘the will to extend one’s self for the purpose of nurturing one’s own or another’s spiritual growth’ - All About Love, Bell Hooks.

MY QUEER BLACKNESS, MY BLACK QUEERNESS

My Queer Blackness, My Black Queerness is an ongoing project in exploration of the multiple existing facets of Black LGBTQIA+ identity. We’re a protest, a celebration that frames blackness as a polyphony, a genre or melody with a vast variety of notes & textures. Our goal is to establish and nurture safe creative spaces for Black & Brown LGBTQIA+ people in order to physically and virtually create threads of connection and expression without the bounds and frameworks of the white gaze.

DAMSEL ELYSIUM

Damsel Elysium is an experimental sound and visual artist. Having previously been hailed as what Vogue describes as “London’s most stylish experimental sound artist” and having featured in the recent FKA Twigs Tiny Desk session, Damsel is an emerging avant-garde artist not to be ignored. Damsel utilises double bass, violin and original field recordings to explore alternative communication and connections with physical spaces and nature. Their aim is to establish an expressive world that speech or writing could never transmute. As a neurodivergent artist, it’s vital for them to deliver a world that is accessible to all audiences and all senses. Combining experimental sound and sight, Elysium crafts worlds of their own, where they can be as fluid as their own feelings and skills are, creating a space for healing, never worrying if the world will understand them.

FONDAZIONE SOZZANI

Fondazione Sozzani focuses on creativity, responsibility, and awareness. Established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani, the Fondazione is dedicated to the promotion of culture through fine and applied arts, photography, and fashion. Fondazione Sozzani has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Galleria has supported since 1990.

Opening hours

Fondazione Sozzani, via Tazzoli 3, Milan

every week

Thursday – Sunday, h. 11AM – 7.30PM

or by appointment: tel. (+39) 02 29004177

SUPPORTING ARTISTS

Val Wanda (@vwandja)

Born in Rome to an Italian mother and Cameroonian father, *Val Wanda* graduated from the Centro Studi Acting in 2020 and participated in the Salt Lake Fringe Festival with *Safe*, a show that won Best Performance and Audience Award. They directed and performed their first theatrical short *Prossima Puntata*, which became a full-length play debuting at Spazio Rossellini in 2021 after winning the *Dominio Pubblico Under25* call. They created, together with Yonas Aregay, *Anatomia di un fiore*, winner of the call *Powered by REF 2021* and presented at Romaeuropa Festival, and finalist at *Direction Under 30*, 2022. They are currently co-writing their first movie.

Lorenzo Carrell / Layco (@layco.off)

Layco is the project of Lorenzo Carrell, 19, who is moved to tears by singing — happy tears and sad tears. Singing is a big emotion, and it gives him the opportunity to say things that he wouldn't be able to, otherwise. It frees him. Singing is his freedom.

Penelope Agata Zumbo (@penelopeagatazumbo)

Penelope Agata Zumbo is a poet, an activist for the LGBTQIA+ community (an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more), a peer educator.

The themes to which she dedicates herself both in the poetic and political scopes are the rights of trans* people, the freedoms of the body, the feminine and gender violence.

Simona Simmcat (@simmcat)

Simmcat is a project by Simona Catalani, born in Rome and graduated in Painting at Brera Academy. In her projects the visual and sound dimensions merge and the whispered voice, together with the delicate melodies, meet in the colors and shapes of her artworks.

Maria Alessandra Panzera (@mapanzera)

Maria Alessandra Panzera, 23, is an emerging lyrical essay writer based in Milan. BA Social Anthropology and Law Graduate, SOAS University of London, she writes on love, identity and politics from an autobiographical stance. She believes in the healing power of creativity and its collective reach to bond people together, through the sharing of empathy, compassion and lived experiences.