

MAURIZIO NANNUCCI FEATURING JAMES LEE BYARS

Opening Saturday 13 February, 2016, 4 pm
14 February - 31 March / by appointment only

Museo d'Inverno is pleased to launch its first year of exhibitions with **Maurizio Nannucci**, who for the occasion has chosen to present works and documents linked to his more than twenty-five-year-long friendship and professional affinity with the American artist **James Lee Byars**.

The exhibition **Maurizio Nannucci featuring James Lee Byars** presents a few original works, a sound work, letters and correspondence, and photos of performances, many of which took place in Florence and elsewhere in Tuscany during James Lee Byars' numerous sojourns here. All of the items are gifts or "trades" exchanged between the two artists that document their friendship and common spirit. All of the works and materials on exhibit are from Florence's Zona Archives, a collection begun by Maurizio Nannucci in the late 1960s.

Museo d'Inverno, with seasonal programs, proposes to set up a series of exhibitions, inviting artists from different generations to choose and present the work of other artists from their own personal collections, curating the exhibitions and thus highlighting the relationships, friendships, collaborations and sometimes love stories that transpired at particular moments of their lives and artistic journeys. The result is an idiosyncratic sort of "Museum," focused on the desire to explore as far as possible an unofficial, "secret" contemporary art history/story, in many case previously unknown.

The Museum, located above Fonte Nuova, one of the fourteenth-century fountains that once supplied water to the city, is supported by the **Contrada della Lupa**, one of Siena's seventeen historic neighborhood organizations. The space is heated by a woodburning fireplace.

The **Museo d'Inverno** project is conceived and directed by the artists **Francesco Carone** and **Eugenia Vanni**.

Maurizio Nannucci (Florence, 1939) is one of the protagonists of Italian art of the past few decades, and among the best-known internationally. Since the mid-1960s, he has explored the complex relationships between art, language and image, creating new conceptual works marked by their utilization of various media: neon, photography, video, sound and artist's books. Nannucci is one of the founders of numerous non-profit initiatives like Zona (1974/1985), Zonaradio (since 1982) and Base projects for art (since 1998).

Maurizio Nannucci has been invited several times to participate in the Venice Biennial, Documenta in Kassel, and the Biennials of San Paulo, Sydney and Istanbul, and has shown in some of the most important museums and galleries worldwide. He recently had a solo exhibition at the Maxxi in Rome.

James Lee Byars (Detroit, 1932 / Cairo, 1997) was one of the central figures in Twentieth-century art. He studied art and philosophy at Wayne State University in Detroit in the second half of the 1950s, and then in 1957 went to spend ten years in Japan, interspersed with numerous periods of travel in the United States and Europe. Until 1967 he lived mainly in Kyoto, teaching English, and traveled throughout Japan to study traditional Japanese culture, Noh theater and Buddhist philosophy. He also lived for long periods in Germany, Greece and Venice. He had solo shows in many important museums and institutions, including Kunstmuseum, Bern; MOMA, New York; Fondation Cartier, Paris; Ivam, Valencia and Castello di Rivoli, Turin. He participated in "Documenta 6" (1977) and "Documenta 7" (1982), and in the 1980 and 1986 Venice Biennials.

Rounding out the exhibition is the text: **James Lee Byars, by Gabriele Detterer with recordings by Maurizio Nannucci**