

PRESS RELEASE

Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea presents Artist at GNAMC, a program that each year hosts a leading figure of contemporary Italian art under the formula "one year, one artist, one room." The selected artist for 2026 is Marinella Senatore, to whom a series of initiatives will be dedicated from 28 April to 31 December 2026

ARTIST AT GNAMC Marinella Senatore Artist of the Year 2026

28 April 2026 – 31 December 2026

Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome

The *Artist at GNAMC* initiative, promoted and organized by the Director of the **Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea**, Renata Cristina Mazzantini, proposes a visiting artist program inspired by the practices of major international institutions. The museum hosts an Italian artist for an entire year, dedicating a room to them with a significant selection of works and organizing a series of meetings, workshops, and events open to the public, scholars, and students from the academies and faculties of Valle Giulia. It is therefore not a temporary exhibition, but a year-long program that interweaves exhibition, education, and dialogue.

For 2026, **Marinella Senatore** — one of the most influential figures in the contemporary Italian art scene — has been selected as *Artist of the Year*. A multidisciplinary artist, Senatore is today one of the leading voices in participatory art globally. Since 2012, with her School of Narrative Dance, she has engaged over 8 million people across more than 23 countries, developing a practice in which participation is not ancillary but structural: workshops become devices of self-education in which the body—through movement, voice, and presence—emerges as a cognitive tool.

The room dedicated to Senatore will feature more than 40 works, including drawings, collages, and tapestries, marking a turning point in the artist's research by introducing, for the first time, landscape and weaving as central axes of her practice.

The series of 32 drawings *It's Time to Go Back to the Street* translates into images the dimension of the embodied landscape: mindful movement, parkour, and collective choreographies construct a dynamic topography shaped through action. Completing this section are five drawings from the series dedicated to *The Divine Comedy* (graphite and charcoal on acid-free paper).

The two new collages *The Creation of a Context* (gold leaf, collage, mixed media on panel) intertwine word and image: texts generated in workshops with diverse communities emerge as condensations of experience on layered surfaces.

At the core of the room are four new monumental tapestries, *The Theatre of Commons* (each 300 × 200 cm), created in collaboration with the Chanakya School of Craft in Mumbai. In these works, weaving becomes a means of constructing autonomy and identity: each thread is a trace of a passage, each layer the result of a negotiation between individual gesture and collective dimension. The tapestry thus condenses tradition and contemporaneity, individuality and collectivity. Within the museum's itinerary, the installation is completed by the luminous sculpture *Remember The First Time You Saw Your Name* (2021, LED bulbs and flex LED on wooden structure, 282 × 1198 cm), a distinctive hallmark of the artist's poetics.

Marinella Senatore's practice operates at the intersection of aesthetics, pedagogy, and community-building, taking shape as a framework capable of simultaneously producing forms, relationships, and possibilities for experience, creating environments in which knowledge emerges through shared experience rather than being transmitted vertically. The exhibition marks a decisive moment of development in this trajectory: a point at which participation, drawing, and embroidery converge into a new configuration, translating into forms of strong visual and spatial impact. In keeping with this poetics, the room will not only be an exhibition space but the focal point of a year-long program: lectures, workshops, and moments of encounter that Senatore conceives as an integral part of her practice, extending a body of work that seeks to engage communities traditionally marginalized from cultural institutions. The GNAMC provides a space that enables the activation of these processes, extending them into the social fabric—an ongoing practice that continues to trace new trajectories, redefining the relationship between art, community, and the production of meaning.

"The energy of Marinella Senatore, Artist of the Year 2026, fills the GNAMC with a sense of wonder and brings it to life, revealing a multifaceted creative universe that is consistently joyful and distinctly feminine. Through a multidisciplinary artistic approach and a sophisticated distinctive style, the works on display and donated to the museum bear witness to the ethical commitment of an undisputed leading figure in participatory art. Beginning tomorrow, in collaboration with the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma, over the coming months the artist will meet scholars, students and the public, transforming the museum into a stage of collective and shared creative experiences," says director Renata Cristina Mazzantini.

The program opens on 28 April with *Io contengo moltitudini (I Contain Multitudes)*, a workshop led by the artist with students of the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma: an introduction to her practice followed by a shared experience of somatic movement, exploring modes of listening, presence, and relationship at the core of her research.

The initiative *Artist at GNAMC. Marinella Senatore Artist of the Year 2026* is supported by GNAMC's institutional sponsors: **Autostrade per l'Italia, Banca Ifis, Enel, Fondazione Roma, Gruppo Fs, Intesa Sanpaolo, Maire, and Webuild**. Thanks to their support, the two collages *The Creation of a Context* (2026) and the four tapestries from the series *The Theatre of Commons* have been produced and acquired into the museum's collection.

Special thanks to Marinella Senatore for her generous donation to the GNAMC of the work *Remember The First Time You Saw Your Name* (2020).

Artist Biography

Marinella Senatore (Cava de' Tirreni, 1977) develops a multidisciplinary artistic practice that investigates the aesthetic and political potential of collective processes. Her research encompasses installations, tapestries, collages, film, and collective performances. In 2012, she founded *The School of Narrative Dance (SOND)*, a nomadic and free educational platform that to date has engaged over 8 million participants across more than 23 countries.

Her work has been exhibited at major international institutions, including the Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Kunsthaus Zürich, The High Line (New York), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Berlinische Galerie (Berlin), UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Castello di Rivoli, MAXXI (Rome), Moderna Museet (Stockholm), Hayward Gallery (London), and BOZAR (Brussels).

She has participated in numerous international biennials, including the Venice Biennale, the São Paulo Biennial, Manifesta 12, and the Chengdu Biennale.

Her awards include the New York Prize, the MAXXI Prize, the Italian Council Award, and the ACACIA Prize.

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