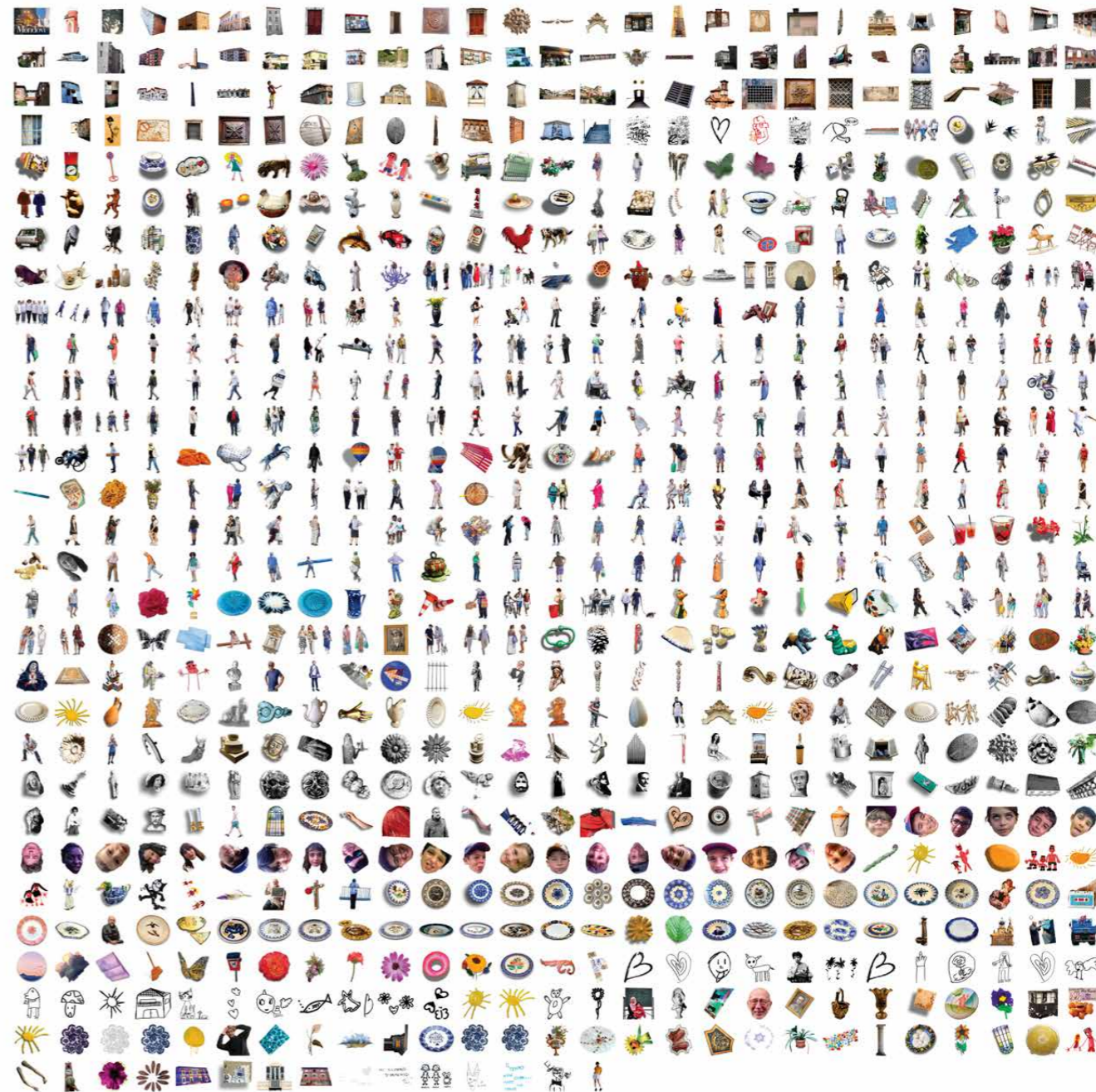


A tall brick clock tower stands on the left side of the image. It has two large circular clock faces, one on each side, with black hands and numbers. At the top of the tower, an Italian flag flies. To the right of the tower is a stone wall with a colorful mural. The mural features various figures and patterns in bright colors like green, pink, and blue. The wall has a red-tiled roof. In the background, there are tall green trees and a blue sky with white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

NEWS FROM HOME

**ANNE FEHRES
& LUKE CONROY**

NEWS FROM HOME





dialog city

DIALOG CITY

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TOWARDS A DIGITAL CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN EUROPEAN CITIES

Digital transformation is more of a mindset than a purely technical innovation. Hence the overall goal of this project proposal is to create a socially inclusive, environmentally friendly, and economically sustainable urban digital environment.

By developing new practices on how to connect digital innovation directly to citizens' physical participation, DIALOG CITY aims at contributing to increase access to culture through a dialogical approach. Co-creation is at the core of our project idea encompassing a CITIZEN ARCHIVE PLATFORM for the cultural heritage sector and an innovative design thinking toolkit on FUTURE LITERACY. Three HYBRID FESTIVALS serve as physical and digital cultural platforms to reach diverse audiences.

An ART FOR PUBLIC RESIDENCY PROGRAMME invites artists to develop ideas for urban interventions dealing with local or global topics that are of great significance for the respective urban society based on participatory approach.

THE CITIZEN ARCHIVE PLATFORM is a web tool to archive all kinds of data-based objects of various citizen groups, direct engagement and mediation with the audience in the interpretation, communication and presentation of cultural heritage will be widened.

The creation of a FUTURE LITERACY toolkit and the subsequent implementation of workshops by trained artists, the methodology has outstanding potential to give citizens and stakeholders a compass in the face of the increasing complexity of our globally interconnected world.

DIALOG CITY builds partnerships between small and medium-size cities in five European countries – Austria, France, Germany, Greece and Italy - based on collaboration comprising city museums, city archives, cultural organisations, urban activists, social architects as well as training facilities.

This way, it includes different viewpoints and creates the basis of humane digitization and ongoing 'user engagement'. And it enables a sustainable network where creative solutions are continuously developed in the most diverse areas of society.



IMAGINE OUR COMMON FUTURE!

DIALOG CITY ART FOR PUBLIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM invites professional artists to develop ideas for urban interventions addressing local or global issues of significance to the respective urban society through a participatory approach. The participating European cities for upcoming years are Mondovì (IT) in 2023, Graz (AT) in 2024, Aschaffenburg (DE), and Montpellier (FR) in 2025.

The project **NEWS FROM HOME** by Anne Fehres and Luke Conroy, an artist duo specializing in socially engaged art practice, was selected for the first residency in Mondovì, Italy. During their four-week stay, they immersed themselves in the community, conducting research, collaborating with locals, and observing diverse community stories. Their focus was on capturing both objective and subjective narratives that blend global and local perspectives.

The culmination of their residency was a mural depicting these stories, created using large format photographic composition on billboard paper affixed to an old wall in Mondovì's medieval centre. The artwork was unveiled on July 20, 2023, as part of the **HYBRID FESTIVAL** and will remain in public space until time naturally fades it away.

The project consortium of **DIALOG CITY** received an overwhelming response of 78 fully-fledged applications for the first residency, showcasing high-quality projects that were evaluated based on their participatory and dialogical approach. Feasibility within the residency timeframe considering language barriers and cultural translations was also crucial. Sustainability and ecological considerations were factored in during project evaluation.

Anne and Luke's proposal aligned well with the call requirements, particularly emphasizing strong participation, artwork visibility, and seamless integration with the **DIALOG CITY HYBRID FESTIVAL**. Their collaborative approach facilitated effective communication and exchange with Mondovì citizens during residency workshops due to their experience in participatory art projects and exceptional communication skills. Overall, their project exemplified a successful blend of artistic vision with community engagement, contributing significantly to the cultural landscape of Mondovì while fostering dialogue and participation among its residents.



DIALOG CITY HYBRID FESTIVAL #1

MONDOVÍ, ITALY

The inaugural Hybrid Festival in Mondoví was organized by Fondazione Cirko Vertigo in collaboration with all European consortium partners of the DIALOG CITY project, notably the Italian partners Municipality of Mondoví, CFP CEMON, and CIAC FORMAZIONE. The festival was linked to the Piazza di Circo event hosted by the L'Albero del Macramè Association and further enriched by the 24 Hours x 24 Minutes® format presented by Associazione Culturale Supernova and Museo della Ceramica of Mondoví. This vibrant format served as a diverse artistic and cultural ecosystem, offering not just a spectacle but an immersive experience for artists and audiences to engage in creative dialogue on pressing future topics.

Over a thousand attendees gathered for the festival's grand finale at Piazza Maggiore, experiencing live performances and engaging in workshops. The highlight was a new performance concept created by choreographer Raffaele Irace called 24 Hours x 24 Minutes, featuring dancers Marco Volta and Rosalie Wanka sharing stage spaces across Mondoví for a continuous 24-hour period before presenting a minimum 24-minute performance. The entire performance was broadcast live on the DIALOG CITY website.

In addition to this innovative performance, three dance and performance workshops were conducted as „experiences,“ each lasting two hours and involving local residents of Mondoví. These workshops, led by professional dancers and choreographers Daniela Paci, Cecilia Castellari, and Davide Degano, focused on themes of discovery, creation, and composition.

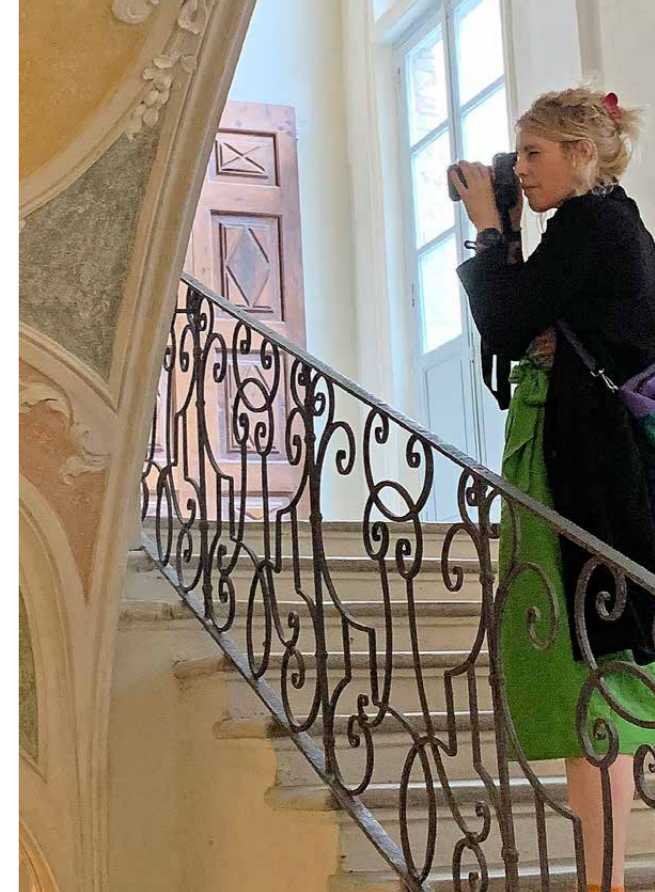
Furthermore, a participatory Game Jam was held simultaneously in Mondoví and Aschaffenburg, Germany. Citizens, students, and activists collaborated to develop game ideas addressing urgent global issues such as climate change, economic crises, and interdependencies. The Game Jam provided a platform to explore these complex topics creatively while generating innovative solutions in an engaging manner.



News From Home - Mondoví

2023

Digital Photomontage, Print on Blueback Paper, 600cm x 200cm
Displayed in Public Space, Giardini del Belvedere, Mondoví, Italy



NEWS FROM HOME

BY ANNE FEHRES AND LUKE CONROY

News From Home is an ongoing project first started in 2019, capturing the often-overlooked stories within communities worldwide. During the project, we embed ourselves within a specific locale for between 1-3 months, involving ourselves in research, documentation, and the eventual creation of an artistic intervention inspired by the community.

The 10th edition of this project took place over 1 month in Mondovì, Italy, with the end result being a large-scale 6 x 2 metre photomontage work exhibited in public space.

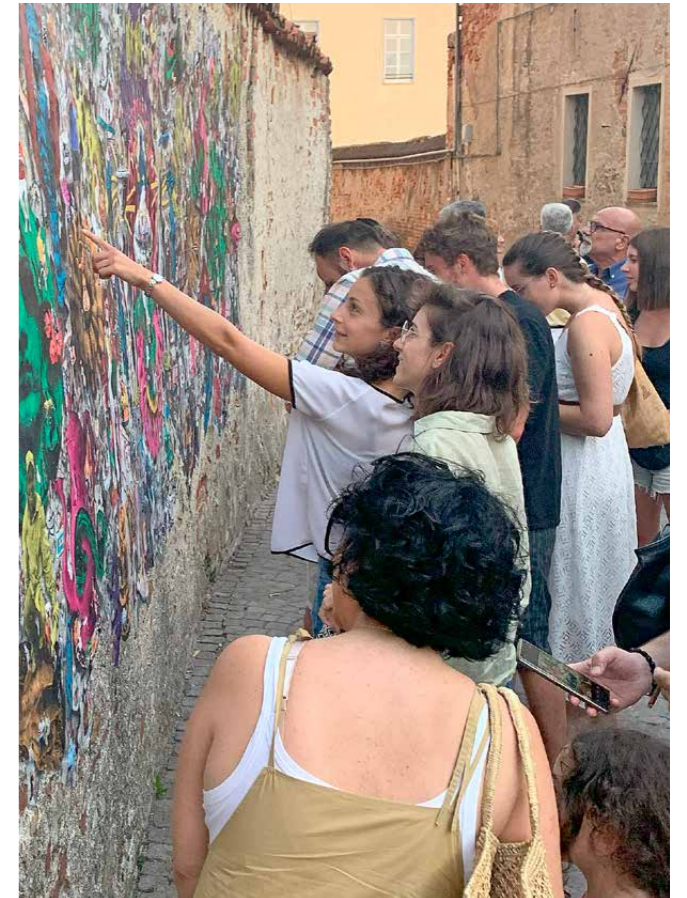
At its core, in **News From Home** we are interested in engaging with and valuing the 'everyday' aspects of a community. It is these aspects of a place that we find fascinating and vital, as they speak to the struggles, triumphs, attitudes, and dreams of a place. By engaging locally, we believe there is a potential to find commonalities globally, making the local, universal.

During the residency, our intention was to experience and photograph Mondovì in its many layers. This involved hours of exploring the streets, recording with our camera our visual observations inspired by the smells, textures, tastes, sounds, colors, movements, objects, stories, animals, and people. This exploration led us to historical sites such as the abandoned ceramic factories as well as more personal sites, invited into the homes of local residents.

Alongside personal observation, a key intention of the project was to welcome collaboration and co-creation in the visual outcome. This involved us undertaking workshops with local school children, where each contributed photographs, drawings, and ideas related to Mondovì in the past, present, and future. The local photography club also contributed, during a 'photo walk' through the city that involved the sharing of important community ideas, locations, and history.

The co-creation extended virtually, where we established an online platform where the community could submit their personal photographs to the project. On this page, over 100 contributors submitted their personal photos and stories that they felt reflected Mondovì's past, present, and future.

These thousands of collected images contributed to the final large-scale photomontage, installed using 'paste-up'. Containing over 1000 layers, the work included elements such as children's drawings from the workshops, historical images, photography of daily life, graffiti scratched into city walls, and spontaneous portraits. Exhibited publicly in Mondovì, the work is a collision of diverse layers celebrating this community as a place where elements of the past, modern reality, and future dreams constantly overlap.





Anne Fehres and Luke Conroy

THE ARTISTS

Anne Fehres (The Netherlands) and **Luke Conroy** (Australia), are an interdisciplinary, research-oriented artist duo based in The Netherlands. Their practice engages with socio-cultural topics in meaningful yet playful ways, utilising humour and irony as essential tools for critical reflection and expression.

The outcome of their work utilises an ever-evolving multimedia and audio-visual practice which includes photography, digital-art, video, sound, VR, textile, text and installation. Their interest in socio-cultural topics is informed by Anne's background in documentary film and audio-visual design (Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium, 2013) and Luke's background in sociology, visual-art and education (University of Tasmania, Australia, 2013).

In their work, they are especially interested to engage with projects where broader socio-cultural events, processes and systems at a macro level can shape and be shaped by personal experiences at a micro level.

More information on the **News From Home** Instagram page www.instagram.com/news_from_home and on the artists websites www.luke-conroy.com & www.annefehres.com

dialog city

IMPRINT

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