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**Working title:** *Ecology and the Political Role of Nature in Italian Art, 1963-1981*

### **Abstract**

This research analyses the relationship between Italian art and ecology during the 1960s and 1970s, by addressing the question of how the notion of nature changed and differed within such national context in response to a historical period influenced by the effects of the “economic boom”, the radical socio-political shifts of 1968 and the emerging countercultural movements, at the precise moment when ecological crisis was starting to be first perceived on a planetary scale. It focuses on the avant-garde practices of a small group of Italian artists and radical architects, who engaged with social, political and environmental discourses through artistic approaches which ranged from interventions in the landscape to urban explorations, from conceptual to architectural practices, from design to art cinema.

The study delves into the oeuvres of Piero Gilardi (Turin), Ugo La Pietra (Milan), Group 9999 (Florence), Gianni Piretti (Florence/abroad) and Gianfranco Baruchello (Rome). Though they were spread throughout Italy, their works and engagement nevertheless established a significant national and international art network which is also at the attention of this investigation.

Taking into account the current focus on the ecological subject in several fields of humanistic studies, this interdisciplinary project – which includes art historical, environmental and socio-political analysis – aims to contribute to defining the intertwining of ecological approaches and Italian artistic practices between the 1960s and 1970s.

### **Contact**

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