



Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo

PRESS RELEASE

LUCA VITONE – I, VILLA ADRIANA

Italian artist creates work from 2nd century AD Roman archaeological site.

Images - <https://tinyurl.com/iovillaadriana>

The Museum of Contemporary Art of the University of Sao Paulo and the Italian Institute of Culture of Sao Paulo present the exhibition **I, Villa Adriana**, a result of Italian artist Luca Vitone's incursions into one of the most emblematic architectural complexes of Ancient Rome: the villa of Emperor Hadrian in Tivoli (Rome), which dates back to the 2nd century AD. Recording the passage of time, interfering with old productions of the place or even presenting us with some elements from the Villa's time of great exponential, Vitone presents his continuous search for the disarticulation of the coded representations of places, showing those less obvious traces that characterize them.

The exhibition features nine canvases left for months in different parts of the Villa, delegating the task of producing the images to time, elements and atmospheric conditions. The large canvases show on their surface the effects of contact with the environment, as "self-portraits" of Villa Adriana. The exhibition also shows the *Capricci*, four engravings of Villa Adriana conceived by Piranesi, in which Vitone inserted handwritten notes. Some findings from the Villa, such as three panels with fragments of painted plaster and a statue representing the Egyptian deity Horus in the form of a falcon, bring the ambiance the artist found in Villa Adriana to the show. A site-specific artwork, made with dust collected at the Roccabruna Observatory, where Emperor Hadrian carried out his astronomical studies, completes the exhibition.

I, Villa Adriana is curated by Anne Palopoli and Andrea Bruciati. It is brought to MAC USP thanks to yet another partnership between the Museum and the Italian Institute of Culture of Sao Paulo, and the support of the Consulate General of Italy in Sao Paulo. The collaboration created the opportunity to approach the Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo (MAXXI), where this exhibition took place between June and September 2021, and the Istituto Autonomo Villa Adriana e Villa d'Este (VILLAE), both from Rome. The opening includes the launch of a catalog that contextualizes the artist's experience and presents the exhibition.