VOLCANIC ATTITUDE

Contemporary art festival
Napoli > Eolie > Napoli
25 - 29 September 2026

From September 25 to 29, 2026, **the fifth edition of Volcanic Attitude** takes place: a festival of contemporary culture, art, and science that brings together artists and scientists in a program of research, explorations, lectures, and performances along a journey **from Naples to the Aeolian Islands** and back to the Gulf of Naples. The itinerant festival, curated and directed by Helga Franza, Susanna Ravelli, and Giulia Restifo, renews its **route from Naples to Vulcano, Stromboli, and back again.**

Special guests of this edition are the volcanoes of Iceland and Martinique, engaged in a dialogue with the Mediterranean landscape. This year, Volcanic Attitude invites participants to explore the landscape through listening and understanding of the "**vibrant elements"** that characterize the volcanic islands and coastlines between land and sea.
Telluric currents traverse the layers of the earth and the depths of the sea, generating relationships of untamed forces and an almost invisible texture of the landscape. Drawing from the accounts of scientists, researchers, and from the practices of artists, **the festival** opens up an immersive journey that overlays the geography of the places visited with the evocation of myths and imaginaries made of collective thermal rituals, walks that reveal surprising aspects of volcanoes or the mnemonic stratification of the earth, and navigations that investigate the mystery of super cosmic particles submerged in the marine depths along the volcanic routes of the Mediterranean.

The program of the fifth edition embraces empathic perception, a horizontal ecological attitude, in resonance with vibrant elements: from Naples, where the voyage begins, with floating as a form of access to the ecosystem between cosmic and abyssal forms, to immersion in warm waters infused with gaseous depths and the search for the planet's archaic breath of which the Aeolian Islands are steadfast witnesses.
In a summer when climate change has demonstrated the force of ongoing transformation and the urgency of widespread awareness, the festival draws attention to the ethical dimension of human action within the vulnerability of inhabiting and the instability of planetary conditions. Art and science are capable of tracing new perspectives of ecological thought, activating a renewed consciousness of shared belonging and resonance with the Earth, of which we are all transient guests.

Participation in the festival is open and accessible at each of its stops. For information and registration: festival@volcanicattitude.org

The protagonists of the 2026 edition

Volcanic Attitude welcomes Marco Casagrande and Nicolò Giorgini, a performative research duo; Alba

Balmaseda, Kathrin Doppler, and Ines Lechleitner, artistic research group; Bjarki Bragason, artist; Nicola
Capone, Simona Da Pozzo, and Paola Mautone, philosopher, artist, and agronomist; Stefano Graziani, photographer; Anna Líndal, artist; Pietro Lo Cascio, naturalist; Rachele Maistrello, artist; Alessandro Manfrin, artist; Melina Mulas, photographer; Magnús Pálsson, artist (curated by An Paenhuysen – Pétur Magnusson as representing Magnus Pálsson); Paolo Piattelli, INFN physicist; Massimo Ricciardo, artist; Carlo Andrea Rozzi, CNR physicist; Vulcani Sacri — Laura Chatenay-Rivuaday and Giuseppe Schillaci, research group (curated by Gaetano La Rosa).

Daily Program

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

NAPLES

The group of participants, together with the artists and researchers, meets at the Garden of Largo Arianiello for an introduction to the Festival. The journey begins in a city characterized by *vibrant soils*, by layers of volcanic ground and constant telluric movements.

15:30

“Giardino dei Capezzoli”, Largo Proprio d’Arianiello, Naples

Gathering of participants

Vibrant soils

The soil is a vital ecological laboratory of connections and unexpected germinations. It is a memory of generations and interspecies relationships. It is a vibrant environment, a stratification in continuous transformation.

Opening talk with agronomist Paola Mautone and artist Simona Da Pozzo, philosopher Nicola Capone in dialogue with Anna Líndal, artist and researcher, and Bjarki Bragason, artist. Installations by Bjarki Bragason and Simona Da Pozzo will be on display.

18:30

Porto Calata di Massa, Naples

Boarding the Laurana Siremar ferry

As with every journey that begins toward the discovery of new landscapes, boarding metaphorically marks a moment of “being together” in this collective experience.

IN NAVIGATION TOWARD THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

The navigation is a gateway to the islands: time slows down, and floating becomes an extraordinary dimension that embeds us within the marine environment, where we are guests in our human vulnerability. It requires an attitude of listening from a seismic coastline to the Mediterranean wave motion. We travel along the route of submerged volcanoes, guided by the narrative imagination that the festival entrusts to physicists and artists.

From 20:30

Rachele Maistrello, artist

Intimate performance, epistolary exchange

Performative action

Alessandro Manfrin, artist
Wish You Were Here
Itinerant installation

22:00
Marco Casagrande and Nicolò Giorgini, choreographers, with scenography by Angelo Bitetti Baia
Dance performance

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

06:30
Sunrise over Stromboli from the ship
09:00
Talk: Alba Balmaseda, Kathrin Doppler, Ines Lechleitner Introduction to the artistic research project Bathing Vulcano
Talk: Paolo Piattelli, INFN physicist (National Institute for Nuclear Physics) Introduction to the project km3-scale Neutrino Telescope (KM3NeT)

VULCANO

10:40
Landing on the Island of Vulcano
The place par excellence that, since the first edition, has hosted the Festival's explorations — an island that more than others has experienced the transformation of tourism, losing part of its identity as a distinctive destination. Its untamed volcano and black sands, its morphology bearing witness to a geological history of powerful telluric forces, preserving its character as an extreme place where nature reveals its unpredictability.

16:00
Visit to the INGV "Marcello Carapezza" Center
With Marcello Liotta, volcanologist at the National Institute of Geology and Volcanology

17:00
Hotel Les Sables Noirs, Baia di Ponente, Vulcano
Participatory action *Obsidian Threshold* by Rachele Maistrello, artist

18:30
Opening Night
Porto di Ponente — Panoramic Terrace, Hotel Les Sables Noirs, Vulcano
Opening Night Vibrant Elements
Presentation of the European *project "Shaken Grounds. Art as Seismograph"* in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art of Zagreb (MSU), the University of Applied Arts Vienna, and the Iceland University of the Arts. Introduction by Lucie Strecker and Ana Škegro.
Cross Interview:
With Alessandro Manfrin, artist, and Paolo Piattelli, physicist at the National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN).

A dialogue on the visible and invisible relationships within the landscape that surrounds us. What is the prefiguration of nature that we perceive, and what escapes our gaze? Manfrin introduces his research, which moves between images of “natural” landscapes and the real configurations shaped by constant human action. What does the experimental KM3NeT Neutrino Telescope project of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics detect and reveal? Which particles arriving from outer space interact with the Sicilian marine depths?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

MORNING

Hot Water Beach, Island of Vulcano

“Bathing Vulcano”

Collective performance by Alba Balmaseda, Kathrine Doppler, Ines Lechleitner Thermal practices are a well-known and deeply rooted feature of the island of Vulcano. From sulfur muds to hot waters, the ritual of immersion - the collective bath for aesthetic and healing purposes is a tradition that renews itself and carries a culture that seeks in nature a source of well-being and accessible regenerative connection.

Installation: Bjarki Bragason, artist Near the Spallanzani sea stack, beneath which the hot water beach opens. Traditions from volcanic islands - the Aeolian Islands and Iceland - intertwine. Walk with Massimo Ricciardo on *ancient cooking methods*, accompanied by naturalist Pietro Lo Cascio of the Nesos Association.

AFTERNOON

Ascent to the La Fossa Crater, Vulcano

Performative Talks:

With Anna Líndal, artist

Archiving Surprises. A performative account of the research and immersive experiences the artist has carried out in her homeland, Iceland, such as swimming among ice and pumice inside the Grímsvötn crater, in the Vatnajökull glacier, in 2013. How can past journeys be revisited, extracting from archival material new sources of investigation and creation?

With Carlo Andrea Rozzi, physicist at the National Research Council (CNR) Reflections on the work of the scientist and the ethical demands of “free” research in times of war.

Exploration

with Stefano Graziani, artist

The artist returns to the places he visited in 2009 (at the time, the artist’s book *Under the Volcano and Other Stories* was published by Galleria Mazzoleni), with the idea of creating a geography of instability of things that change, even within those rocky landscapes that appear immutable. EVENING

Participatory Action:

with Rachele Maistrello, artist

Obsidian Threshold. The work captures the presence of obsidian not only as volcanic material, but as a conceptual device that makes visible the transition between the black of geological stillness and the red of ongoing eruption. Through silhouettes she has created, the artist invites the audience into a narrative bordering on nonlinear science fiction, made of apparitions, interruptions, and continuous perceptual shifts.

Culinaria. Cooking together with ancient methods

Curated by Massimo Ricciardo, artist

Reviving traditional Aeolian cooking techniques that harness the heat of the ground, the artist invites participants to share the conviviality of outdoor cooking as a ritual of alliance and knowledge.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

VULCANO > STROMBOLI

Baia Levante

Departure toward the final destination: Stromboli

MORNING

Scari Beach, Stromboli

Mini-Mob-Shop & Screening: Workshop for the partial reenactment of the "non-voice choir" *Cross* (1996/2013) by artist Magnús Pálsson with curator An Paenhuysen, in collaboration with Pétur Magnusson.

Collective Action: Action/poster installation of *Völundarhús* (Project for a Volcanic Labyrinth, 1980) by Magnús Pálsson.

Pálsson's volcanic labyrinth, *Völundarhús* (Project for a Labyrinth, 1980), is transposed from Iceland to Stromboli. Between Stromboli's beach and several sites in Ginostra, the projection and partial reenactment of his "choir without voice" *Cross* (1996/2013) takes place. After a Mini-Mob-Shop on Stromboli's beach, other non-vocal approaches will be explored, culminating in the screening of the 2013 edition of *Cross*.

AFTERNOON

IN NAVIGATION toward the Sciara of Stromboli and GINOSTRA

Presentation of "*Sacred volcanoes"*

With Giuseppe Schillaci and Laura Chatenay-Rivauday Curated by Gaetano La Rosa

GINOSTRA

Collective Action:

Partial reenactment of the "non-voice choir" *Cross* (1996/2013) by Magnús Pálsson

Collective Photography Workshop on the Landscape with Melina Mulas

Meeting with a group of students from the Faculty of Architecture of the Swiss University of Mendrisio and activation of an open action dedicated to photographic observation of the landscape, following the teachings of Ugo Mulas and Nini Mulas.

EVENING

Boarding and return **TOWARD NAPLES**

Video Installations: Alessandro Manfrin, artist

The voyage concludes by returning to the port of departure. Artist Alessandro Manfrin reflects, through his erratic installations stratified like a visual relational diary over the days of the festival on the multiple readings of a landscape in which nature and human presence bring forth, in a sometimes challening coexistence, the contradictions and the threads indissolubly knotted between the "wild" and the "political."

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

08:00 — Disembarkation at the Port of Naples

Organizers and Supporters

The Volcanic Attitude 2026 Festival is organized and curated by Helga Franza, Susanna Ravelli, Giulia Restifo, with the participation of An Paenhuysen. It is produced by Fondazione Arthur Cravan, Centro Itard Lombardia, and That's Contemporary, with co-funding from the European Union — CREA-CULT-2025-COOP-1, European Cooperation Projects, and contributions from the Regional Assembly of Sicily, the Embassy of Iceland, and the Icelandic Art Center. It has the institutional patronage of the Metropolitan City of Messina and INGV.

It is supported by a local network of companies: Siremar – Caronte & Tourist, Liberty Lines, Les Sables Noirs Hotel & Spa, Life Resort Mari del Sud, Orsamaggiore Hotel.

Institutional Partners: Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb (MSU), University of Applied Arts Vienna, Iceland University of the Arts.

Among cultural and territorial partners: Associazione Ex Voto Napoli, Nesos Lipari, Non Riservato Milano, #Wallofsound Palermo.

The Volcanic Attitude Festival

Volcanic Attitude is a festival where artistic practices and scientific thought engage with the primal forces of nature across volcanic islands and landscapes. Founded in 2021 by a team of curators, artists, and communication experts, since 2024 it has maintained a female artistic direction led by Helga Franza, Susanna Ravelli, and Giulia Restifo.

Through workshops, performances, artistic residencies, concerts, and conferences, the festival aims to transform through diverse proposals and reflections the habitual perception of those who cross or inhabit the Aeolian Islands, reconnecting it to geological stratifications, to the symbolic dimension of Mediterranean insularity, seismicity, and the deep culture that has shaped strong anthropological, social, and economic identities.

The festival maintains its nomadic spirit: it moves through places to learn, to listen, and to exchange cultural and scientific perspectives. It does so with an attitude of sustainability and ecological relation to the indomitable yet vulnerable quality of these territories, seeking an alternative dimension to the permanent occupation of spaces and the extractive consumption of tourism.

Thanks to the presence of the volcano, the festival reactivates forgotten connections between humans and nature, regenerating cohesive dynamics among all participants, residents and visitors alike. Involved in the festival, by land and by sea, are not only the Aeolian Islands with Vulcano and Stromboli as epicenters, but also other seismic and volcanic territories such as the city of Naples, the underwater crown of Marsili, and, in this fifth edition, Iceland and Martinique, through the participation of international artists and researchers from those regions. An expanded geography of places, visionary connected by deep and warm flows, by the visible and invisible telluric vibrations of volcanoes, and by the shared attitude of living alongside their majestic presence. The islands of Stromboli and Vulcano constitute a vulnerable ecosystem dominated by active volcanoes and related epiphenomena that make them attractive to scholars of earth sciences and the surrounding marine environment. Research groups in geology and volcanology from institutions responsible for territorial safety such as INGV (National Institute of Geology and Volcanology), CNR (National Research Council), and international partner centers are constantly present. Being volcanic territories surrounded by the sea is a source of fascination for tourists who arrive mainly during the summer season, from June to late September, most of them for short stays or day trips involving crater hikes or bathing.

Tourists often expect to experience a volcanic environment yet rarely have opportunities for dialogue with the researchers who work in the same places for monitoring and scientific observation.

The volcano remains a powerful catalyst of experiences for visitors, whether scholars or travelers. Volcanic lands also inspire the work of many artists, drawn to their symbolic and aesthetic force. The festival facilitates connections and encounters among the island's different "users," enhancing knowledge and possibilities for unconventional exploration, scientific dissemination, and strongly evocative artistic and symbolic experiences. It raises awareness among visitors and tourists about the environmental and cultural quality of the island, so that human presence may be consciously sustainable and respectful of territorial fragilities and safety requirements that regulate access to certain areas.

The festival integrates the tourist offer during less crowded periods, expands its audience by promoting among national and international art professionals, a culturally significant destination, and involves the island's hospitality network, contributing to the strengthening of local services and economies (Les Sables Noirs Hotel & Spa, Hotel I Mari del Sud, Hotel Orsa Maggiore…).

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