

## NUMERO CROMATICO PRESENTS

# SUL VOLTO

### Location

Via degli Ausoni 1  
00185, Roma

### Dates

21st → 23rd December 2020

A series of exhibitions closed to the public



### **ARTIST BIOGRAPHY**

**Dionigi Mattia Gagliardi**, artist and researcher, president of Numero Cromatico and editor-in-chief of Nodes Journal. His research focuses on the production of artworks deprived of the artist's emotional contribution and uses neuroscience for the comprehension of art viewers' psychological and rational response. Since 2015, he has been producing paintings using the scientific method. Some of his artworks have been used to develop a project in collaboration with the Università Sapienza di Roma presented at ArtVerona 2019. It was the first neuroaesthetic experiment held in an Italian art fair. He promotes the importance of art theories as the basis for art production. Since 2016 he has been teaching in academies and he is now Professor at the Quasar Institute for Advanced Design in Rome. He is also a member of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics and the scientific committee of the Rivista di Psicologia dell'Arte.

### Info

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### **Solo show by Dionigi Mattia Gagliardi**

*Sul Volto* is an exhibition in which the artist Dionigi Mattia Gagliardi shows some drawings from the series *Atlante delle espressioni facciali* and a performance. Thus Numero Cromatico's space becomes a laboratory where Gagliardi presents a part of a project he has been working on since 2010.

In the first room, five performers enact a "Score of emotions" (2020) provided by the artist. The performers try to execute the score, while the artist registers the similarities and differences in the execution of the task. The results are emotional tableau vivant, outcomes of the unique facial expressions of each performer. In the second room, drawings from the series *Atlante delle espressioni facciali* (2012) hang on the gallery walls.

The face, its expressions and its projective possibilities are some of the artist's topics of interest. *Percezione culturale di sei volti* from 2010, is an artwork/research project that explores to what extent facial characteristics influence perception.

The face is a powerful projective stimulus, an important tool that serves for building relationships with others, something that goes beyond language. It communicates even without actual intentionality; it activates automatically in response to events; its expressions are inscribed in our genetic code. For these reasons, we recognise emotions such as fear, joy, surprise and anger in every face.

Gagliardi's research on facial expressions is part of a fundamental field of painting, namely portraiture. Yet, he approaches it from a different perspective - the study of expressions in order to trace their topographic basis. The face here becomes a map to investigate, deconstruct and use as a tool for the creation of new images.