

 fuse*

EXTENDED BIOGRAPHY

fuse* was founded in 2007 by Luca Camellini and Mattia Carretti in Campogalliano, a small town north of Modena, Italy.

Friends since childhood, they started mixing their different skills and interests to technically support external organizations and companies after graduating from their respective colleges. Camellini graduated with a degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, and has pursued his passion for computer programming and graphical simulations, whilst Carretti graduated with a degree in Chemistry and later in Business Administration from the Polytechnic University of Milan.

Their passion for digital arts, technology and science brought them to merge the three through immersive art installation and artworks. Sound design has always been one of the main pillars of the studio, and in 2009 sound designer Riccardo Bazzoni also joined fuse*.

Snow Fall was the first artistic project realized in 2009 in Modena, which consisted of an interactive installation that processed images of the audience captured by video cameras in real time, displaying the silhouettes of the audience surrounded by snowflakes. This first version was created with infrared cameras while the successive iterations of the work, exhibited in Manchester, UK (2015) and Washington DC, US (2019), employed new and more modern hardware and software.

In 2011, the studio began to experiment with live performances based on the real-time interaction between sound, movement and light. ***N 4.0***, an art piece which is projected onto a variety of architectural backgrounds, was first presented in 2011 for the Celeste Prize art competition, in which the piece won the award for Live Media/Performance.

Continuing to experiment with live performances, fuse* started developing a trilogy composed of ***Ljòs*** (light in Icelandic), ***Dökk*** (darkness) and ***Sál*** (soul) in 2014. ***Ljòs*** and ***Dökk*** are currently on tour and have been presented at international festivals such as Mutek - Montreal (CA), Kikk - Namur (BE), Digilogue - Istanbul (TR) and RomaEuropa - Rome (IT). ***Sál***, the third chapter, is still in production and will premiere at National Taichung Theatre in Taichung (TW) in April 2025.

Over the years, the studio has developed more and more immersive artistic experiences that have traveled all around the world and have been exhibited, among others, in Prague (CZ), Beijing (CN), Milan (IT), Barcelona (ES), Helsinki (FI) and Atlanta (US).

Multiverse premiered in 2017 in Parma, Italy with a monumental installation consisting of a vertical projection and two mirroring surfaces 7.5 meters high. The work builds on the multiverse theory of Lee Smolin and won awards such as the Art and Science Innovation Award from Tsinghua University and the National Museum of China. In 2020, the studio started diving into the concept of trust and developed ***Treu***, a piece examining the relationship between economics, politics, and trust, presented at the Pochen Symposium of 2020.

The concept has been further developed for the studio's second solo show at Artechouse NYC, titled **Trust** (2022): exploring the theme from different timelines, the installation also includes a sentiment analysis of 750,000 tweets containing the word "trust" uploaded during the pandemic.

That same year, the studio released **Artificial Botany**, an ongoing project exploring botanical illustrations through machine learning algorithms: premiered at Cosmo Caixa in Barcelona (ES), it has later been adapted for shows in Venice (IT) and Utrecht (NL). In particular, the project has also been adapted for the spaces of Unipol's Cultura Bologna, using illustrations from the herbarium guides of Ulisse Aldrovandi provided by the University Library of Bologna, the Botanical Garden of Bologna and Alma Mater Studiorum.

In July of 2022, fuse* created **Luna Somnium**, a site-specific installation for the Festival of Vision and Digital Transition held in the Gazometro of Rome. The piece consisted of a sphere suspended within the cylindrical metal structure of the Gazometro, with projections of the moon displayed upon it. The piece is said to be inspired by Johannes Kepler, who gazed upon the moon and saw a new side of it, just as viewers do as they walk around the Gazometro.

The studio also collaborated with Nederlands Kamerkoor, combining the choir's music with the visuals of their live media performance **Van Gogh in Me**, generated from paintings of Vincent van Gogh and Gustav Klimt. The piece premiered in the Konzerthaus in Vienna, and later was on exhibit at the Koninklijk Theater Carré in Amsterdam.

In 2023, **Onirica ()**, a new audiovisual, immersive installation, premiered at INOTA Festival in Veszprém (HU). For this particular artwork, the studio collaborated with two dream banks: the first from the Laboratory of Psychophysiology of Dream and Sleep of the University of Bologna, and the second from the psychology department of the University of California Santa Cruz, created by psychologists G. W. Domhoff and A. Schneider. **Onirica ()** collects 28,748 dreams from these two banks and translates them into an audiovisual experience through a Large Language Model (LLM) and a custom pipeline that included a text-to-image diffusion model.

In addition to the installation, fuse* has also developed the **live media performance Onirica ()**. In this adaptation, the visuals representing dreams are dynamically generated in response to the movements of a dancer, creating a seamless interplay between physical performance and digital imagery. This performative approach adds another layer of immersion, bridging the gap between the tangible and the intangible, as the dancer's expressions shape the visual narrative of the dreamscape in real time.

In 2023, with a successful tour in 2024, the studio also launched **Unseen Flora**, a series exploring botanical subjects through a completely imaginative lens. It focuses on creating otherworldly plants with surreal shapes and forms, drawing inspiration from the works of surreal botanists and illustrators, such as Ernst Haeckel and Luigi Serafini.

AWARDS

2024 - Solo AI Award - Onirica () (shortlisted)
2023 - CODAwards - Luna Somnum (merit)
2022 - CODAwards - Trust
2021 - Jury Selections of the 24th Japan Media Arts Festival - Artificial Botany
2020 - CITIC Press Lightening Selection - AMYGDALA
2020 - Digital Design Award, Installation - Artificial Botany
2020 - Red Dot Award - Multiverse
2020 - CODAwards Merit Winner - Multiverse
2019 - Wu Guanzhong Art and Science Innovation Award - Multiverse
2019 - Digital Design Award, Installation - Multiverse
2019 - Digital Design Award, Sound Design - Multiverse
2019 - German Design Award Special Mention - Dökk
2017 - Digital Design Award, Sound Design - Dökk
2017 - Jury Selections of the 20th Japan Media Arts Festival - AMYGDALA
2011 - Celeste Prize, Best Live Media Performance - N4.0
2010 - Celeste Prize, Best Live Media Performance - Corpo Elettrico
2010 - Digital Graffiti, Most Innovative Installation - N3.0

PUBLICATIONS

FUSE*: a blend of art, science, and technology. Interview with Fuse* art studio, Research Catalogue (2023)
State-of-the-art of Live Media Performance, Creative Applications (2021)
Lutz Koepnick, Resonant Matter: Sound Art and the Promise of Hospitality, Bloomsbury Academic (2021)
Roberto Diodato, Immagine, arte, virtualità. Per un'estetica della relazione, Morcelliana (2020)
Treu, POCHEN Biennale Chemnitz (2020)
Japanese OpenFrameworks, Multiverse, BNN (2020)
Artificial Botany, Occulto Magazine #7 (2020)
L'ecocardiogramma di Milano, La Lettura del Corriere della Sera (2020)
Red Dot Award, International Yearbook Brands & Communication Design (2020)
AS-Helix: The Integration of Art and Science in the Age of AI, exhibition catalogue (2019)
German Design Award, Excellent Communication Design (2019)
Artfutura, Digital Creatures / Augmented Cognition (2017)
20th Japan Media Arts Festival (2017)
Francesco Murano, Light Works Experimental Projection Mapping (2014)
Celeste Prize, III Edition (2011)

EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES | 2008 - 2024

2024

"Human Gravity" c/o Marignana Arte / Venice, IT
Universum / Mexico City, MX
"Lightdome 2" c/o Biodome / Budapest, HU
"La Morfologia del Tempo" c/o Galleria Antonio Verolino / Modena, IT
"Phantom Vision" c/o Light Art Museum / Budapest, HU
"Flashback 5" c/o Artechouse NYC / New York City, US
Hágase la Luz / Santander, ES
"Impronte. Noi e le Piante" c/o Palazzo Eccheli Baisi / Brentonico, IT
Centro Cultural Pozu Santa Bárbara / Mieres, ES
Pasqua Winery / Verona, IT
"Third Nature" c/o A4 Museum / Chengdu, CN
"Unreal Realities" c/o Sevil Dolmaci Gallery / Dubai, UAE
Muziekgebouw Eindhoven / Eindhoven, NL
Immaterika booth c/o ArtDubai / Dubai, UAE
Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui / Hong Kong, HK
Grand Theatre / Shanghai, CN
Silk Road International Cultural Exchange / Langfang, CN
"Ventanas al futuro" c/o Espacio Fundación Telefónica / Madrid, ES
"Hello, Human!" c/o MoCA Taipei / Taipei, TW
"千面之城 - Extension of Selves" c/o QinTai Art Museum / Wuhan, CN
"Impronte. Noi e le Piante" c/o Palazzo del Governatore / Parma, IT
"Superluminal" c/o Light Art Museum / Budapest, HU

2023

Taiwan Creative Content Fest / Taiwan, TW
Patchlab Digital Art Festival / Krakow, PL
MUTEK MX / Mexico City, MX
Bright Moments / London, UK
Smart Life Festival c/o Fondazione San Carlo / Modena, IT
Fondazione Alberto Peruzzo / Padua, IT
Scopitone Festival / Nantes, FR
"Superluminal" c/o Light Art Museum / Budapest, HU
"LUX - Poetic Resolution" c/o Dongdaemun Design Plaza / Seoul, KR
"Beyond the Light" c/o Artechouse / Washington DC, US
INOTA Festival / Várpalota, HU
Zeiss-Großplanetarium / Berlin, DE
"Beyond the Light" c/o Artechouse / New York, US
"Tell All The Truth But Tell It Slant" c/o FACE B / Bruxelles, BE
Rabat Digital Art Festival / Rabat, MA
Italian Cultural Institute c/o INNOVIT / San Francisco, US
Zeiss-Großplanetarium / Berlin, DE
LEV festival / Gijón, ES
"Ipotesi Metaverso" c/o Palazzo Cipolla / Rome, IT
Gallerie Mercatali / Verona, IT
"Metamorfosi. Percorsi oltre la forma" c/o Marignana Arte / Venice, IT
"Hylozoism" c/o Hong Kong Design Institute / Hong Kong, HK

2022

"Nice to Meet You" c/o Malpensa Airport / Milan, IT
"Tales of Nostalgia" c/o Misk Art Institute / Riyadh, KSA
National Taichung Theatre / Taichung City, TW
Yokohama Kannai Hall / Yokohama, JP
TivoliVredenburg / Utrecht, NL
Chassé Theater / Breda, NL
Schouwburg Concertzaal / Tilburg, NL
Amare / Den Haag, NL
SPOT / Groningen, NL
Mutek MX / Mexico City, MX
Parkstad Limburg Theaters / Kerkrade, NL
Muis / Arnhem, NL
Philharmonie / Haarlem, NL
Theater de Vest / Alkmaar, NL
Duke University / Durham, US
Koninklijk Theater Carré / Amsterdam, NL
De Lievekamp / Oss, NL
Schouwburg / Hengelo, NL
FIAV: Festival International d'art Vidéo de Casablanca / Casablanca, MA
Fjord Oslo Light Art Festival / Oslo, NO
Teatro Asioli / Reggio Emilia, IT
Rozdroże Festival / Warsaw, PL
Videocittà / Rome, IT
Gardening Amelisweerd / Utrecht, NL
"Herbario Novo" c/o Marignana Arte / Venice, IT
Artechouse / New York, US
"MUTAMENTI for das05" c/o CUBO, Unipol / Bologna, IT
Japan Media Arts Festival / Kochi, JP
LUX / Helsinki, FI

2021

"Life of a Neuron" c/o Artechouse / Washington DC, US
Residenze Digitali
NEO c/o Cosmo Caixa / Barcelona, ES
Reflektor / Espoo, FI
Sónar Istanbul / Istanbul, TR
Zsolnay Light Festival / Pécs, HU
RomaEuropa Festival / Rome, IT
LEV festival / Gijón, ES
INTERFLOW 纸水即见, Lakeville Gallery / Shanghai, CN
Arts@Tech c/o Georgia Tech Arts / Atlanta, US
Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab / Taipei, TW

2020

Pochen Biennial / Chemnitz, DE
Transart Festival / Bolzano, IT
Nice to Meet You c/o Malpensa Airport / Milan, IT
Sónar Istanbul / Istanbul, TR

2019

AS-Helix c/o Museo Nazionale della Cina / Beijing, CN
FESTSPIELE 2019 / Ludwigshafen, DE
KIKK Festival / Namur, BE
Bailar Apantalla Festival / Guadalajara, MX
Digilogue c/o Zorlu Performing Arts Center / Istanbul, TR
Tbilisi International Festival of Theatre / Tbilisi, GE
Signal Festival / Prague, CZ
Arts@Tech c/o Georgia Tech Arts / Atlanta, US
TodaysArt / Den Haag, NL
MUTEK / Montreal, CA
Teatro de la Ciudad / Purísima del Rincón, MX
MUTEK.SF / San Francisco, US
Artechouse / Washington DC, USA
Kopergietery Festival Digital / Ghent, BE
Nuit Blanche des Chercheurs / Nantes, FR

2018

RomaEuropa / Rome, IT
IMPACT festival / Hasselt, BE
Festival Filosofia / Modena, IT
Bonanni Del Rio Catalog / Parma, IT
Week53 festival / Salford, UK
Athens Digital Arts Festival / Athens, GR
Di palco in palco / Matera 2019 - Matera, IT
AvantScène / Cognac, FR
In BETWEEN. Dialoghi di luce @ CUBO / Bologna, IT

2017

ACT Festival / Gwangju, KR
TAXT Festival / Taoyuan, TW
Biela Noc / Bratislava, SK

2016

ACT festival / Gwangju, KR
RomaEuropa / Roma, IT
Maintenant Festival / Rennes, FR
Scopitone / Nantes, FR
Castel dei Mondi / Andria, IT
Lumina festival / Cascais, PT
VIA festival / Maubeuge, FR
FLUX-US @ CUBO / Bologna, IT
Milan Fashion Week / Milano, IT
Right Here, Right Now / Manchester, UK

2015

NODE festival / Modena, IT
Lunchmeat festival / Prague, CZ
roBOt festival / Bologna, IT
Biela Noc - Kosice / Bratislava, SK
BuitenGewoon / Doetinchem, NL
Time in Jazz / Berchidda, IT
Digital Graffiti / Alys Beach, FL, US
STRP biennial / Eindhoven, NL
HI>DANCE festival / Rome, IT

2014

Festival Della Fiaba / Modena, IT
Spazio Arte, CUBO / Bologna, IT

2009 - 2013

Electropark / Genoa, IT
Digital Graffiti / Alys Beach, US
Celeste Prize 2011 / New York, US
Digital Graffiti / Alys Beach, US
The Bridge Festival 2010 / Modena, IT
Celeste Prize 2010, Invisible Dog Art Center / New York, US
Premio Celeste 2010, Fondazione Brodbeck / Catania, IT
NODE / Modena, IT
Festival Filosofia 2009 / Modena, IT
Open Days 2009 / Matera, IT



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