

THE EXTINCT DESINENCE

↳ LUCIA
VERONESI

04. 28. —
05. 25. 2024

→ Curated by
Paolo Mele
Claudio Zecchi

* MOCA
London, UK



Lucia Veronesi
The Extinct Desinence
Curated by Claudio Zecchi and Paolo Mele
April 28 - May 25, 2024
Opening Sunday 28 April, 2- 4pm

Opening during exhibitions:
Thursday-Friday 2 - 6pm
Saturday 12-4pm
Or by appointments

desinence

NOUN

an ending or termination, esp an inflectional ending of a word

The Italian artist Lucia Veronesi's project *The Extinct Desinence* is a broad reflection on the relationship between the extinction of languages, the field of botany, the history of science in its female declinations, and their socio-political implications.

Until the Middle Ages, scientific knowledge was reserved for men – with one important exception: botany. Since ancient times, women have known the uses of herbs for medical purposes. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, new possibilities opened for women; they could access education and, in rare cases, travel to train themselves. In the nineteenth century, the first manuals for travelers began to circulate, with instructions on the collection of archaeological finds, observation, and cataloging of populations, animals, and plants. Some women traveled across Europe, Asia, and Africa, but their scripts and memoirs were rarely mentioned in the bibliographies of travelers of those times. Their contribution to scientific knowledge had been removed. This historical "cancel culture" has a striking analogy in today's botanical field, that is in the erasure of many medicinal plant species used by indigenous populations who pass on their knowledge orally. If their languages go extinct, valuable medical knowledge will be lost. A study by the University of Zurich conducted by Jordi Bascompte and Rodrigo Cámara-Leret confirms that 30% of indigenous languages will disappear by the end of our century: when the indigenous languages disappear, plant names disappear and traditional pharmaceutical knowledge disappears with them.

Language loss will be even more critical to the extinction of medicinal knowledge than biodiversity loss.

Veronesi's project started with a phase of research in London, Trondheim, and Zurich. The final artwork composes a tapestry and a video that will enter in the collection of Ca' Pesaro - Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna (Venice, Italy).

Her exhibition in London is the first of four solo shows of an international program presenting the project from four different perspectives. At MOCA London Veronesi presents an immersive site-specific installation conceived as a unique collage, generated from the photos of the botanists, plants, and notes written by the artist, emphasizing research as a visual tool. The images also function as a mood board, and are integrated by a selection of materials such as collages, tapestry, and video. She presents a unique environment where the different stories of the botanists and the plants can be intuitively linked, generating new unpredictable connections, stories, and meanings. The spectator, in their active role, functions as an active reader and a co-author.

The publication by Marsilio (Venice, Italy) will also integrate the exhibition.

The Extinct Desinence is a project curated and produced by Ramdom (Italy). It is realised in collaboration with the National Museum of Decorative Arts and Design (Trondheim, Norway); with the support of the University of Zurich - Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany and Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies (Zurich, Switzerland); Goldsmiths University (London, UK); Italian Cultural Institute, Oslo; and Ca' Pesaro - Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna (Venice, Italy).

The project is made with the support of Collezione Luca Bombassei.

The project is supported by the Italian Council (12th Edition, 2023), program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture.

About the artist

Lucia Veronesi is a visual artist living and working in Venice. She has exhibited nationally and internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Da sola nel bosco*, D3082 Art Gallery, Venice, 2023; *È successo il mare*, Fondazione Pino Pascali, Polignano a Mare, (Ba), 2020. Group shows include *De Rerum Natura*, Circolo degli ufficiali della Marina, Venice, 2022; *A Barteby*, Galleria Alberta Pane, Venice, 2021; *Sta come torre*, Museo Castromediano, Lecce, 2020; *Libere tutte*, Casa Testori, Novate Milanese, Milan, 2019; *For Heaven's Sake*, 4th Jerusalem Biennale, 2019. She has shown her videos at numerous national and international festivals, including 32.TFF, Torino Film Festival; MUFF 10 Montréal Underground Film Festival, Proyector 6th International Video Art Festival, Spain; *Facade Video Festival*, Bulgaria. In 2023, she won the 12. Edition of Italian Council with the project "The Extinct Desinence".

About the curators

Claudio Zecchi is the Artistic Director and curator of Ramdom. He has curated and produced exhibitions and residency programs on a national and international scale. Among others: *Gaia Di Lorenzo*, *Offendicula* (2024); *Driant Zeneli*, *Short Fairy Tales for Adults* (2023); *At the South of Mars* (2023), in collaboration with Fondazione Elpis, Milan); *Luigi Coppola*, *ExSitu* (2021); *Céline Condorelli*, *Tools for Imagination* (2020); *Emilio Vavarella*, *rs548049170_1_69869_TT* (*The Other Shapes of Me*), (2019).

Paolo Mele was born in 1981 in the farthest point of Apulia (Italy). He was a researcher in Communication and New Technologies at IULM in Milan and a visiting researcher at the New School of New York. Since 2011 he has been the director of Ramdom, organization devoted to contemporary arts and cultural regeneration. He is now director of Kora – Contemporary Arts Center and President of STARE, Italian network of artistic residencies. He was Project Manager for the Foundation Matera – Basilicata 2019. As an expert in cultural management and media, he worked for the Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean (BJCEM) and with several international organizations.

About Ramdom

Ramdom is an association committed to cultural and artistic production. It aims to design and create contemporary art projects on an international scale. Main activities are: exhibitions, public art productions, residencies, workshops and live performances. Winner of the 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th editions of the Italian Council with the projects by artists Emilio Vavarella (2019), Céline Condorelli (2020), Luigi Coppola (2021) and Lucia Veronesi (2023). From July 2021 the association manages KORA, a space for contemporary art production and research, situated in approximately 1600 square meters within the historic walls of Palazzo De Gualtieris.

It hosts a museum with both permanent and temporary exhibitions, a library, creative and educational workshops and artistic residences. From 2022 Ramdom has been admitted to the public fund FUS 2022-24 in the field of music with the project *Ogni Altro Suono*. It's a Cultural Institution recognized by the Ministry of Culture. Ramdom is one of the founders of STARE, the association of Italian artist residencies.

Aat

Language Puinave (Colombia, Venezuela), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Parahancornia krukovii*

Medicinal Use skin and subcutaneous tissue

The Puinave people apply latex drawn from the plant to wounds to accelerate healing.

Ancabesux (Siona)

Languages Siona (Colombia, Ecuador), gradually being replaced; Tena Lowland Quichua (Ecuador), endangered

Scientific Name *Abuta grandifolia*

Medicinal Use poisoning, sensory system

The Siona people extract the curare. The infusion of leaves breaks the fever. The Ecuadorian Ketchwa people boil the leaves and then apply them as a poultice on infected eyes. Also used to treat snake bites.

Awmoncawe

Language Waorani (Ecuador), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Iryanthera elliptica*

Medicinal Use infections

The Waorani people extract a resin from the bark to treat fungal infections and to eliminate mites.

Bi-ti-ka-oo-k, Na-ká-te-pé

Languages Siona-Tetete (Colombia, Ecuador), gradually being replaced

Karijona (Colombia), almost extinct

Scientific Name *Juanulloa ochracea*

Medicinal Use skin and subcutaneous tissue, sensory system

The Siona people use the trunk and leaves to treat flesh wounds. The Karijona people make an infusion from the dried and pounded leaves to cure eadache.

Bo-co-a', é-eé-dee-na

Language Murui huitoto

(Colombia, Peru), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Clusia renggerioides*

Medicinal Use digestive system

The Witoto people of Rio Igaraparana use the infusion of flowers to combat dysentery.

Borrachera (Colombia)

Language Camsá (Colombia), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Desfontainia spinosa*

Medicinal Use nervous system and mental health

The leaves are used as a hallucinogenic and narcotic.

Ca-roó-wö

Language Yukuna (Colombia), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Tachigali cavipes*

Medicinal Use skeleton and muscles

The Yukuna people rub a tea made from its leaves onto swollen joints as an anti-inflammatory.

Chawn-aat' (kakua - makú)

Languages Cofán (Ecuador, Colombia), endangered;

Kakua (Colombia, Brazil), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Orthomene schomburgkii*

Medicinal Use nervous system and mental problems; skin and subcutaneous tissue

The Cofán people of Rio Sucumbios drink a tea made from the leaves to induce sleep. In Rio Piraparaná, the Makús people bathe wounds that won't heal with a decoction of twigs.

Ee-wee'-ra

Language Tikuna (Brazil, Peru and Colombia), endangered

Scientific Name *Cochlospermum orinocense*

Medicinal Use general ailments with non-specific symptoms

The Tikuna people believe the infusion of bark works against fevers.

Huku-ikó

Language Siona-Tetete (Colombia, Ecuador), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Codonanthopsis dissimulata*

Medicinal Use poisoning

The Siona people use it as a remedy for ant bites. An infusion is made from the leaves. It is also used for toothache and headaches.

I-cu

Language Tikuna (Colombia, Brazil e Peru), endangered

Scientific Name *Curarea toxicofera*

Medicinal Use skin and subcutaneous tissue

The Tikuna people scrape pieces of bark into water, using it to wash wounds or to soothe itching.

I-spa-na-nai-ambé

Language Colombian Inga (Colombia), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Cuphea racemosa*

Medicinal Use blood and cardiovascular system, urinary system

The Mocoa Inga people use the decoction of the entire plant as a strong diuretic and to purify the blood.

Mé-ta-ma-noó

Language Karijona (Colombia), almost extinct

Scientific Name *Paullinia splendida*

Medicinal Use metabolism

The Karijona people use the decoction obtained from the leaves to fight weakness, the consequence of malaria.

Meé-o (Makuna), *Han-shee-má* (Puinave)

Languages Makuna (Colombia, Brazil) and Puinave (Colombia, Venezuela), both gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Helicostylis scabra*

Medicinal Use digestive system, infections

Despite being toxic, it is used by the Makuna people to alleviate cases of extreme intestinal parasites. The Puinave people use it as an antifungal treatment for the skin.

Moquillo (Colombia)

Language Siona-Tetete (Colombia, Ecuador), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Saurauia aromatica*

Medicinal Use infections

A tea made from the flowers is used to cure colds and serious epidemics.

Nuni

Language Secoya (Ecuador, Peru), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Cyperus articulatus*

Medicinal Use cultural diseases and disorders

The rhizome is ground and mixed with water to *cure mal de viento* (a psychological disorder caused by fear).

O-hê'-wo-bok (Makuna)

Languages Makuna (Colombia and Brazil), Tikuna (Brazil, Peru and Colombia), both gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Lorostemon stipitatum*

Medicinal Use mouth and teeth; reproductive system

The Makuna apply the lymph to cold sores. The Tikuna probably use it to induce miscarriage.

Oo-noo-sê'-hê-pa

Language Cofán (Ecuador, Colombia), endangered

Scientific Name *Peperomia serpens*

Medicinal Use poisoning

The leaves and stems are used to soothe conga ant bites.

Oyo-há-o

Language Secoya (Equador, Peru), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Solanum leptopodum*

Medicinal Use pregnancy and birth

The Secoya steep the leaves in warm water and place babies in the infusion to calm them when they cry.

Pa-má

Language Tikuna (Brazil, Peru and Colombia), endangered

Scientific Name *Inga macrophylla*

Medicinal Use skin and subcutaneous tissue

The Tikuna use the sweet white pulp that encases the seed to cleanse yellow accumulations on the eyelids.

Po-ho-glö' (Puinave)

Languages Barasana-Eduria (Colombia) and Puinave (Colombia, Venezuela), both gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Vochysia laxiflora*

Medicinal Use urinary system, respiratory system; skin and subcutaneous tissue

The leaves are boiled together with coca leaves to prepare a diuretic tea. The dried and finely powdered bark is rubbed onto the sores. To alleviate asthma and other respiratory disorders, the bark is thrown onto the fire and the acrid smoke it produces is inhaled. The Puinave people prepare a decoction to reduce fevers, again from the bark.

Seé-na

Language Yukuna (Colombia), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Caraipa parvielliptica*

Medicinal Use mouth and teeth

The lymph is applied to cold sores; the latex is used to alleviate skin irritations.

Shashák (Mayna Jivaro)

Languages Jesuit-Maynas (Peru), extinct

Achuar Shiwiar (Ecuador), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Begonia glabra*

Medicinal Use mouth and teeth

The Mayna Jivaro people apply a poultice of pressed leaves to babies' gums when they are teething.

Shingi-panga, machwa panga (Ketchwa)

Languages Pastaza Quechua (Ecuador) endangered

Achuar-Shiwiar (Ecuador), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Psammisia pauciflora*

Medicinal Use reproductive system

The plant is used as a contraceptive. The leaves are used to reduce menstrual flow.

Tap-kam'

Language Puinave (Colombia, Venezuela), gradually being replaced

Scientific Name *Gnetum nodiflorum*

Medicinal Use skeleton and muscles

A gummy decoction is extracted from the bark to reduce inflammations caused by muscular injuries and torn tendons.

Tu-ke'-mij-keu

Language Bora (Peru, Colombia), endangered

Scientific Name *Abuta pahni*

Medicinal Use respiratory system

The Bora people of Rio Yaguasyacu use the stem to cure tuberculosis and pulmonary diseases.

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Works

Lucia Veronesi
La desinenza estinta, 2024
HD Video, colour, black and white, stereo sound
7'00"

Lucia Veronesi
La desinenza estinta, 2024
Jacquard fabric with lampas effect on the weft
150 x 250 cm.
1/5 Edition

Lucia Veronesi
Margaret Ursula Brown Mee
(*La desinenza estinta*), 2024
Collage on paper 30.5 x 24 cm.

Lucia Veronesi
Cuphea Racemosa
(*La desinenza estinta*), 2024
Collage on paper 30.5 x 24 cm.
Collage and thread on paper 34.7 x 24.8 cm.

Unframed Collages

2
Lucia Veronesi
Abuta grandifolia (The Extinct Desinence), 2024
Collage on paper, 30,7 x 22 cm.
Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

4
Lucia Veronesi
Juanulloa ochracea (The Extinct Desinence), 2024
Collage on paper, 31,7 x 24 cm.
Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

5
Lucia Veronesi
Clusia renggerioides (The Extinct Desinence), 2024
Collage and thread on paper, 32 x 24,5 cm.
Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

7
Lucia Veronesi
Tachigali cavipes (The Extinct Desinence), 2024
Collage and thread on paper, 27,8 x 22 cm.
Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

8
Lucia Veronesi
Orthomene schomburgkii (The Extinct Desinence), 2024
Collage on paper, 28 x 21,9 cm.
Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

14

Lucia Veronesi

Helicostylis scabra (The Extinct Desinence), 2024

Collage on paper, 22,5 x 30 cm.

Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

16 a

Lucia Veronesi

Cyperus articulatus (The Extinct Desinence), 2024

Collage on paper, 27,8 x 21,8 cm.

Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

16 b

Lucia Veronesi

Cyperus articulatus (The Extinct Desinence), 2024

Collage on paper, 27 x 21,5 cm.

Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

17

Lucia Veronesi

Lorostemon stipitatum (The Extinct Desinence), 2024

Collage on paper, 30 x 24 cm.

Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

26

Lucia Veronesi

Abuta pahni (The Extinct Desinence), 2024

Collage on paper, 32 x 24 cm.

Photo credit Francesco Allegretto

Lucia Veronesi

Byrsonima arthropoda (The Extinct Desinence), 2024

Collage on paper, 26,5 x 22 cm.























