

**Paolo Cirio**  
***Information Critique***  
**Curated by Marina Guida**

**PAN | Palazzo delle Arti di Napoli**

**Public inauguration: 4 July 2020 at 6 p.m.**

**From 4 July to 22 August 2020**

Saturday, 4 July 2020 at 6 p.m. **For the first time in Naples**, a major solo exhibition of the work of the Turin-born artist-activist **Paolo Cirio** will open to the public in the rooms on the second floor of the **PAN | Palazzo delle Arti di Napoli**, curated by **Marina Guida** and conceived specifically for this show, entitled “***Information Critique***”. The project, organised by the **Department of Culture and Tourism of the Municipality of Naples** in collaboration with the **Galleria Giorgio Persano** of Turin and **NOME** of Berlin, consists of a large body of works covering a time span of fifteen years.

Open until 22 August 2020, the exhibition layout has been designed specifically for the venue in Naples, and presents itself as a contemporary fresco, a device divided into sixteen projects ranging from 2005 to 2020: *Derivatives* (2019), *Street Ghosts* (2012), *Attention* (2019), *Foundations* (2019), *Face to Facebook* (2011), *Overexposed* (2015), *Obscurity* (2016), *Global Direct* (2014), *Meaning* (2019), *World Currency* (2014), *P2P Gift Credit Cards* (2010), *Open Society Structures* (2009), *Hacking Monopolism Trilogy Flowcharts* (2005-2011), *Sociality* (2018). The selection of works is presented with an analytical approach and a solid conceptual framework. **The exhibition**, divided into seven rooms, examines and **decodes the relationships between international finance and monetary policy, the links between public and private identity, between freedom and surveillance; the question of privacy**, and its political and economic implications. The emblems of the prevailing **technoliberalism** are analysed and revealed through images and photos taken from the Internet and with flowcharts that reveal the **power structures that influence politics and the economy**. Through a plurality of media – **sculpture, photography, media performance, installation, video** which constitute the de facto records of his researches, inventions, and actions – the artist gives form to a performative and visionary structure that constantly evolves, in which the dimensions of **reality and artistic provocation** coexist in a dialectical bond. Until now, Cirio’s reflection on the mechanisms of social control and global political management has been presented through the medium of a series of exhibitions. Each project work had a specific “tactical” function, namely the investigation of a circumscribed segment of contemporary reality, and was proposed as a gateway to current political and social software, offering the user the opportunity to analyse the

invisible dynamics and mechanisms of the strategies that, through shared norms and conventions, regulate the actions of major corporations and the repercussions that these generate on society. For the first time instead, this exhibition presents an overview, in which the individual works are temporarily composed into a fabric of complementary relationships and functions. **The preferred focus of Paolo Cirio's work are the new media, the Internet, the actions and the internal logic of the big corporations such as Google, Amazon and Facebook, and also of government agencies such as the FBI, NSA and CIA.** With his interventions, the artist traces out an **intangible map**, establishing a mental almanac to **imagine a different future** made of **direct democracy**, which could be attained thanks to an **informed use of the network, knowledge sharing and monetary revolution**; in his investigations of data flows he **highlights the system flaws that undermine the precarious capitalist and neoliberal balance**; to do this, he uses **investigations, hacking and the manipulation of flows of information**, thus managing to create his sculpture which is immaterial but at the same time very concrete. The tactical interventions he sets up are able to convey precise social messages in a direct and creative way, such as to stimulate the critical sense, providing the public with the opportunity to see what it did not previously visualise or even imagine possible.

The exhibition will be accompanied by **the first artist monograph in Italian**, with interviews and critical texts by Marina Guida, Valentino Catricalà, Francesca Sironi, Martina Giuffrè, Irene Calderoni, Filippo Lorenzin, Bruce Sterling, Andrea Tinterri, and published by the Lulu publishing house.

### **Access procedures:**

Access to the venue is by reservation <http://ingressi.comune.napoli.it>

It will also be possible to request availability of access to the exhibition which is free of charge on site.

Organisational procedures will be in force to assure maximum public safety in sanitised spaces. At the entrance of the PAN, a thermal camera will measure body temperature, with 37.5° C set as the upper limit allowing admission; it will be essential to wear personal protective equipment inside the building; during the visit, information regarding distancing will be provided in compliance with the new Covid-19 regulations for the protection of visitors and staff.

### **Biographical details**

Paolo Cirio (Turin, 1979). He lives and works in New York, U.S.A.

Cirio works with the legal, economic and cultural systems of the information society. His artistic practice investigates how contemporary society is influenced by the distribution, organisation, and control of information, laying bare and revealing its conflicts, contradictions and infinite potential.

Cirio has had solo shows at Giorgio Persano Gallery, Turin, 2019; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, 2019; International Kunstverein Luxembourg, 2016; NOME Gallery, Berlin, 2019, 2016, 2015; Bellegard Centre Culturel, Toulouse, France, 2015; Kasa Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey, 2013; Aksioma Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2013 and 2011.

His work has been presented in important institutions and events, among which: the Gwangju Biennale, 2018; the Strasbourg Biennale, 2018; the Benaki Museum, Athens, 2018; the MIT Museum, Boston, 2017; Tate Modern, London, 2017; C/O Berlin museum, 2017; the Museum für Fotografie, Berlin, 2017; the Münchner StadtMuseum, 2017; the Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art of Luxembourg, 2017; Haifa Museum of Art, 2017; International Kunstverein Luxembourg, 2016; ICP Museum, NYC, 2016; Gaîté lyrique, Paris, 2016; the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, 2015; Somerset House, London, 2015; Artium Museum, Vitoria-Gasteiz, 2015; Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam, 2015; Utah MoCA, 2015; Vancouver Art Gallery, 2015; Cenart, Mexico, 2015; Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel, 2015; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2014; The Photographers' Gallery, London, 2014; Open Society Foundation, NYC, 2014; TENT, Rotterdam, 2014; DOX Prague, 2014; MoCA Sydney, 2013; ZKM, Karlsruhe, 2013; CCCB, Barcelona, 2013; CCC Strozzi, Florence, 2013; MoCA Denver, 2013; MAK, Vienna, 2013; Architectural Association, London, 2013; Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro, 2012; Seoul Museum of Art, 2012; National Fine Arts Museum, Taichung, 2012; Wywyzszeni National Museum, Warsaw, 2012; AEC Museum, Linz, 2011; SMAK, Ghent, 2010; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens, 2009; Courtauld Institute, London, 2009; PAN, Naples, 2008; MoCA Taipei, 2007; Sydney Biennial, 2007; and NTT ICC, Tokyo, 2006.

Paolo Cirio has won a number of awards, including Golden Nica first prize at Ars Electronica in Linz, 2014; Transmediale second prize in Berlin, 2006; Eyebeam Fellowship, 2012; and NEA grant at ISCP in NYC, 2017; START prize in 2020; among others awards.

## Exhibition details

<b>Promoted by</b>	Assessorato alla Cultura e al Turismo del Comune di Napoli
<b>In collaboration with</b>	Galleria Giorgio Persano - Turin and NOME - Berlin
<b>Title</b>	<i>Information Critique</i>
<b>Artist</b>	Paolo Cirio
<b>Curator</b>	Marina Guida
<b>Venue</b>	<b>PAN   Palazzo delle Arti di Napoli, via dei Mille 60</b>
<b>Dates</b>	4 July – 22 August 2020
<b>Catalogue</b>	edited by Studio Paolo Cirio, published by Casa Editrice Lulu
<b>Public inauguration</b>	6 p.m. on 4 July 2020
<b>Press office</b>	AnnaChiara Della Corte <a href="mailto:acdellacorte@gmail.com">acdellacorte@gmail.com</a> 333 8650479
<b>Opening times</b>	Daily 10.30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday closed
<b>Public info</b>	<b>PAN   Palazzo delle Arti di Napoli</b>
<b>Admission</b>	<b>FREE and by RESERVATION</b> <a href="http://ingressi.comune.napoli.it">http://ingressi.comune.napoli.it</a>