



Manifesto Roggia

The artist as Gardener

The objective of the manifesto is to inspire the work of the many creatives who will work at Cascina Falchera.

Through the symbolic figure of the **Gardener**, and a series of qualities that the Gardener embodies, we describe here the founding values of Roggia, the eco-creative residence of Cascina Falchera.

The choice of the figure of the Gardener to describe the role of the artist at Cascina Falchera is not casual. The Gardener is the connector between humans, plants, animals and insects.

The manifesto represents an invitation to the artists to take on, explore, interpret and play with the role of the Gardener, from when they enter into the community of Cascina Falchera, during the creative process and through their artistic productions.

Regardless of the theme that the artist wishes to explore and the artistic expression or modality that he decides to adopt during their stay in Roggia, the artist will take on the role of the Gardener, which embodies the following qualities.



Care

The artist as a gardener of bonds

Just as a gardener takes care of their plants, and the interactions that exist between them, so the artist from Roggia takes care of bonds, cultivates existing bonds and makes new ones flourish. These bonds can be:

Personal and interspecial: bonds between people, animals, plants and insects that live and use Cascina Falchera on a daily basis. It will be possible, for example, to develop new types of interactions between people, but also between human and non-human creatures, who permanently populate or occasionally frequent the Cascina Falchera ecosystem.

Temporal: bond that connect the past, present and future of Cascina Falchera. The artist may, for example, decide to explore the place's values, symbols and rural practices of the past by reinterpreting, readapting them in light of the present and reintroducing them into Cascina Falchera.

Spatial: bond that connect Cascina Falchera with the surroundings, with the city of Turin and with the rest of the world. The artist may, for example, decide to focus on the relationship between city and countryside or weave exchange relationships with other artistic residencies, in other rural or urban contexts in Europe.



Sharing

The artist as a generous gardener

Just as the Gardener rejoices in seeing their plants grow, the fruit of their dedication to the earth, the artist from Roggia makes their art available to the community, contributing to the growth of the individuals who are part of it.

The artist from Roggia is the one who not only possesses a form of art - understood according to its etymological meaning of "*ars*", as in talent, competence, and ability -, but it is also they who generously share their "*ars*" with the next one.

During their stay in Roggia, the artist actively participates in the life of Cascina Falchera and contributes to the development and growth of the community.

The artist will involve other users of Cascina Falchera, both during their creative process and by taking care of transferring their "*ars*", for example, through workshops open to the public.

The artist thus acts as a spark and catalyst for creative, multidisciplinary, communal experiences of exchange and integration.



Biodiversity

The artist as a link between community and nature

Just as the Gardener combines their knowledge of nature with aesthetic language, the artist from Roggia creates participation in the community, interest and fascination for nature through beauty.

In our agricultural past, community life was characterised by a profound symbiosis with the land and the cycles of nature. Just think of the festivals, traditions and collective and convivial rituals that have developed in our societies around sowing, harvesting and other seasonal events. Industrial and technological progress, however, has distanced our lives from nature, its processes and cycles.

Cascina Falchera is a place of rediscovery of community values and simultaneously of reunion between human beings and nature.

Using their aesthetic language and their knowledge in the field of sustainability and biodiversity, the artist revitalises and strengthens bonds between nature and community, for example, by creating new collective aesthetic experiences, formats and opportunities for aggregation and awareness towards the natural processes and other forms of life, with which us humans share the earth.



Celebration

Rituals as the aesthetic language of the artist

Bonds, like the fruits of the earth, must not only be cultivated but also celebrated through collective rituals that strengthen the community.

The large spaces of the countryside and Cascina Falchera offer the possibility of gathering, enjoying the culture and producing it, of making art and creating in a complementary way compared to how art and culture are made in the city, allowing us to regain connection with the land and to experiment and restore collective rural activities and traditions, such as crushing grapes, making tomato puree, making pasta, eating at long tables.

A series of rituals develop around the figure of the artist, celebrating the bonds of the community and the renewed connection between man and nature. These can be recurring rituals such as that of welcoming the artist and passing the baton rituals between artists who succeed one another in Roggia, but also collective rituals that the artist himself will invent, plan and test in Cascina Falchera and whose objective will be that of creating interest and participation around nature and biodiversity.





Hospitality and reciprocity

The welcoming gift into the community and the legacy to the community

By joining the community of Cascina Falchera, the artist will be welcomed with an introduction to their role as Gardener and encouraged to interpret this role with expressive freedom.

The "white canvas" is par excellence the image used to describe expressive freedom.

The White Cloth in Roggia becomes the symbol of the artist's freedom to create and contribute to the development of Cascina Falchera by proposing activities, concepts or projects - and to leave their mark.

During the welcome ritual, at the beginning of their stay in Roggia, the artist will be given a white cloth. During the stay, the cloth will be "coloured", modelled or used by the artist as a material element of performances. The worked cloth will then be delivered upon the artist's farewell from Roggia, thus constituting the artist's gift and legacy to the community. A new white canvas will then be given as a welcome gift to the next artist.