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Pistoia. Dialogues on Man

from 27th May 2011 at 11:00 a.m. to 29th May 2011 at 11:30 p.m.

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After the flattering success of the first edition, attended by more than 9,000 visitors, from **May 27** through **May 29** the city of **Pistoia** will again host '**Pistoia—Dialogues on Man**,' the contemporary anthropology festival sponsored by Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia and by the City of Pistoia, and designed and directed by Giulia Cogoli.

The program of the 3-day festival will include **19 events** (admission fees: €3 or €7) held in Pistoia's old city center. These will be discussions, lectures, performances, readings designed to be accessible to the general public and to whoever is interested in acquiring new tools for an in-depth investigation and under standing today's reality.

The second edition of the 'Dialogues' will have as its general theme '**The body that we are**.' This



year the organizers took as a departure point one common reality shared by all human societies. No human culture in the world has ever taken the human body as a given: rather, the body has always been drawn on, written on, carved, sculpted for cultural, fashion, artistic or pathological reasons. It seems that by such interventions on the body, men have always tried to mark their difference, to signal their departure from nature, by making their bodies a thing of culture. In sum, the human body has been used by every society as a blank page on which to leave a mark of its history and identity.

This year's theme will be introduced by **Marco Aime**, the Italian **anthropologist** who is the scientific consultant to the festival organizers. In his lecture, Prof. Aime will explain why human beings have always tried to wrest the human body from its original, 'natural' condition and make it increasingly 'cultural.' But more anthropologists will address the audience this year: Marc Augé will examine curious similarities and blatant differences in the use of the body in some West African and European; Adriano Favole will show how men do not leave the body to its fate even after death, but rather dress it up carefully, give it tools for its journey, mummify or burn the dead body; Franco La Cecla will explain that man and woman are not only made up of flesh, but also of drives and desires that change over time and thus occasionally produce a certain overlap and confusion in terms of gender; Giuliano Tescari will discuss the multiple, mortified, annihilated, dismembered and disjointed body of the shaman—a vehicle of metamorphosis but also an interface with nature; anthropologist Cristiana Natali, who specializes in the study of dance, will share the stage with Virgilio Sieni, a well-known Italian dancer and choreographer; finally, David Le Breton will deal with the anthropology of pain.

Four philosophers will address the audience of '**Pistoia—Dialogues on Man**' again this year: Roberta De Monticelli will discuss the hard work of growing up and the notion of social body; Maurizio Ferraris will speak of the loss of body in the intangible world of the WorldWideWeb, where the body is turned into a resource as virtual reality needs a body more than ever; Umberto Galimberti will deal with the issue of the many aspects of the body in today's industrialized West: an organism to be healed for medicine, workforce to be employed for economics, flesh to be redeemed for religion, an unconscious to be liberated for psychoanalysis, and finally, a dummy to be dressed for fashion designers.

Sociologist Rossella Ghigi will address the culture of body change and plastic surgery; Telmo Pievani, the philosopher of science, will examine the development of the human body in genetic and evolutionary terms. Psychiatrist Gustavo Pietropolli Charmet will comment on some adolescents' difficult relationships with their own bodies; two theologians, Stefanie Knauss and Vito Mancuso, will debate the relationship between body and spirituality, sometimes cast as incompatible. Demographer Rossella Palomba will discuss with Sylvie Coyaude, a journalist who specializes in scientific popularization, whether our gender identity is a combination of biological components and of sociocultural features. A famous photographer, Ferdinando Scianna, will raise the question of why we hardly ever recognize ourselves in photographs, and connect it with the ambiguous relationship between our bodies and images. Finally, Carlo Petrini, the head of the Slow Food movement, will address the

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In addition, this year's program includes a homage to one of the greatest anthropologists and thinkers of all time, Claude Lévi-Strauss. Toni Servillo, the actor, will read from his well-known book, *Tristes Tropiques*, and choreographer Virgilio Sieni will introduce his *Studies of the Human Body*, with music by S. Sciarrino and J.S. Bach performed live by G. Pretto (flute) and C. Pasceri (cello).

The Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia, with its President, Prof. Ivano Paci, deserve credit for willing and supporting this festival, that new features among Italy's most widely attended cultural and social events.

Pistoia's Mayor, Mr. Renzo Berti, and his administration, who sponsor the 'Dialogues' jointly with the Fondazione C.R.P.T., have espoused this project from the beginning and participated directly in its implementation, to the benefit of audiences from all over Tuscany as well as from other Italian regions.

In the months of April and May, a few schools in the province of Pistoia are involved in three events designed expressly for them and including some of the 'Dialogues' speakers. Also, students in the two final grades of high school were invited to volunteer to help make this 3-day festival possible.

Finally, 'Pistoia—Dialogues on Man' enjoys the sponsorship of the Regional Administration of Tuscany and the Administration of the Province of Pistoia.

Information, program, and ticket sales:

www.dialoghisulluomo.it

Address:

Piazza dello Spirito Santo, 51010 Pistoia (PT)