**PRESS RELEASE**

# BARI, CORPUS: RESEARCH, STUDY, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, DISCIPLINE AND RIGOUR IN ROBERTA GUARNA'S ARTISTIC PRACTICE

**BARI –** On Saturday 7 November 2026, at 5:30 pm, at Via Arcivescovo Vaccaro 41 in Bari, Roberta Guarna, visual artist and independent scholar, founder and curator of Italian Collagists Collective APS, will present CORPUS.

CORPUS is research, study, discipline, archive, memory, process and project development: the sum of the activities, sources, materials and relationships that precede and accompany artistic production and through which an artwork takes shape.

The presentation on 7 November forms part of the international framework of Club Collega – regional · worldwide, running from 22 October to 22 November 2026, an initiative promoted by Museum Haus des Papiers in Berlin.

Museum Haus des Papiers describes itself as the first museum of its kind in the world dedicated exclusively to contemporary visual art made from paper.

Bari is the first and, at present, the only Italian presence in the international project, through the participation of Roberta Guarna with CORPUS and Italian Collagists Collective APS.

## THE PRESENTATION ON 7 NOVEMBER

The aim of the event is not simply to present finished artworks, but to make visible what precedes them and accompanies their creation, offering a direct insight into the artistic process.

Books, historical sources, period photographs and documents, archival materials, fine and handmade papers, working tools and other elements used by Roberta Guarna in her various lines of study and research will therefore be on display. A selection of her works will show how these materials, documents and experiences feed into artistic production, finding expression through different languages and approaches.

A specific part of the evening will be devoted to close observation of paper. Invited guests will be able to explore several types of fine and handmade paper, examine their surfaces and textures, and appreciate differences in paper weight, feel and characteristics, also through direct discussion with the artist. A short video will then trace, through a sequence of images, some of the principal activities, experiences and stages of Guarna's artistic research in recent years.

## CIÒ CHE RESTA / WHAT REMAINS

The event will also present "Ciò che resta / What Remains", an international curatorial project launched in 2025 by Italian Collagists Collective APS through an open call that attracted applications from 28 artists, with 46 works submitted in total. Following the selection process, 17 artists were selected from Italy, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Russia, Canada and the United States.

The outcome of the selection prompted the decision to continue the project through a dedicated publication, planned as a printed edition with an ISBN, which will document and showcase the work of the participating artists.

## FRATE MENOTTI

A special focus will be devoted to the independent historical research that Guarna has been conducting since 2019 into Vittorio Amedeo Menotti Bianchi (1863–1924), known as Frate Menotti, a celebrated caricaturist from Bari. The artist will present some of her research findings, which focus on reconstructing his biography and have enabled a deeper understanding of his family origins — including his father's work as an architect and stage designer for the Royal Theatres of Naples —, his early employment as a telegraph operator in 1883, and anthropometric data drawn from historical records. In 2027, the research will develop into a separate project comprising an original body of artworks and a publication, both dedicated to Frate Menotti.

## PROJECTS FOR 2027

The evening will also offer a preview of some of the artistic and cultural activities planned for 2027. These include a project in preparation devoted to works made with and on paper in dialogue with photography. It aims to involve artists from Puglia living in the region and artists from Puglia living elsewhere, bringing different experiences, artistic languages and cultures into conversation.

## CORPUS AND ITALIAN COLLAGISTS COLLECTIVE

The same premises where CORPUS will be presented also host the planning and coordination activities of Italian Collagists Collective APS, founded and curated by Roberta Guarna. The association also works to foster knowledge, visibility and recognition of contemporary collage in Italy, developing relationships and exchanges with international organisations and progressively extending the dialogue to other artistic languages and practices.

The presentation on 7 November thus brings together individual research, study, archive, artistic practice and cultural project development, making visible different aspects of work developed over the years.

## INFORMATION

**CORPUS**

**Presentation:** Saturday 7 November 2026

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Venue:** Via Arcivescovo Vaccaro 41 – Bari, Italy

**Admission:** strictly by named printed invitation only

**Press and information contact:**

Roberta Guarna

**Email:** guarnaroberta@gmail.com

**Website:** robertaguarna.com

**Instagram:** @roberta.guarna