

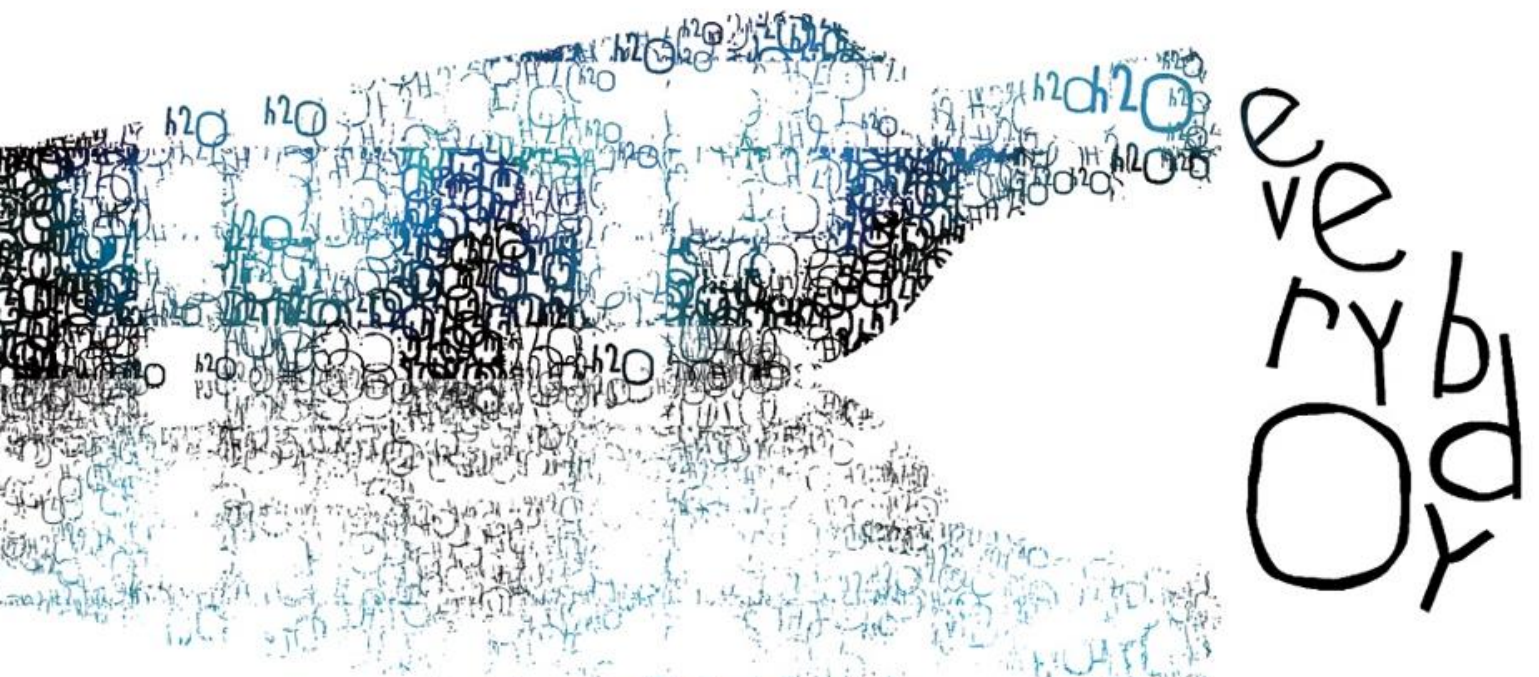
L'ACQUA È DI TUTTI

(WATER BELONGS TO EVERYONE)

interactive installation

by **Manolo Benvenuti**, **Claudio Ballestracci** and **Giulio Accettulli**

original musics by **Marco Mantovani**



THE ARTWORK

L'acqua è di tutti (Water Belongs To Everyone) is an interactive installation that merges plastic art, music and reuse philosophy. Supported by *Ambiente Festival* and a twinning between Rimini (Italy) and Périgueux (France) municipalities, it took part in the first edition of Périgueux' *Festival Art & Eau* (24th-26th June 2011) as the result of a month's residence and many workshops.

It looks like a giant **Bottle**, thrown out as household or municipal waste, and slightly sunk into the ground. Its size allows a large number of users (up to 30 people) to simultaneously get in and comfortably have a stop. The Bottle's facing is made with about 3.000 reclaimed plastic bottles, mostly molded by the school children, associations and volunteers who attended the workshops in Périgueux.

This imposing structure acts as a cocoon to four fountain-like, perfectly working artifacts, that invite the viewers to move closer to the water and reveal their secret function.

In fact, they are real **Sound Fountains**: when people get next to one of them, the water flow stops and the melody of a string instrument starts right from inside the artifact. If some people interact with two or three Fountains at a time, they activate different instruments and play as many melodies, in perfect harmony: that's a real-time polyphonic performance.

The composition sounds in its complete score when all four of the Fountains – two violins, a cello and a viola – are activated by the users, and it seems as if they're calling a passionate **string quartet** up from the water.

As a matter of fact, this original composition, written by collaborator Marco Mantovani, is dedicated to the various sound expressions of water. With the Sound Fountains you can perform a large range of musical variations, of instrumental entrances and exits at full steam; you can watch unpredictable sorts of *water musicians* coming to grips with enjoyable, funny, exciting situations.



THE PROJECT

The Périgueux residence was the author's first opportunity of interweaving their competences and poetics in conceiving not just an artwork, but an ecological symbol. From the planning to the exhibition, throughout the construction process, they tried to involve as many people as possible, and actually did, so that the whole Périgueux and its festival's spectators felt part of a bigger project.

Through their work, they meant to develop the "water" topic as a social and relational good. To give substance to the artwork, they chose a plastic bottle's shape and colors because **that simple, domestic object instantly points water as a vital element, but also brings its consumption to mind, as well as the environmental implications of its consumption**: industrial exploitation of a common good, misuse and wastage, plastic disposal, pollution and landscape defacement. Moreover, the Bottle's covering is made of lots of ordinary plastic bottles, reclaimed from waste containers. But that bottle-shaped structure is no more garbage: it turned into a concert hall, a place for the people to meet and enjoy music. The concert hall and the Sound Fountains' functioning – a poetical experience that gets people closer to each other – are vivid translations of basic concept that "water is a relational good".

We all know that it's necessary to conserve the water resources; but can we still recognize the beauty of water, feel the deep emotions that it conveys, let ourselves get in touch by means of this compelling, ancestral element? This project aspires to increase, among the artwork's users, the water element in sentimental and symbolic value. It aims to make them more conscious of the need to embrace eco-friendly lifestyles, and to recover the sense of belonging to the very same, biological Everything. The Sound Fountains mean to rouse the beauty of water, and the joy that water instills. They also want to rouse the **sense of community** that water suggests. It's a long time since our Everything has been begging a new collective involvement.

Since 2011, *L'acqua è di tutti* was successfully shown in Noisy-le-Grand (FR), Saint-Germain-en-Laye (FR), Geneva (CH) e many Italian cities, such as Bologna, Rimini and Sansepolcro.

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