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Opening 7 march 2014 from 17.30

Curated Giuseppe Ruffo and Pietro Tatafiore

From 7 to 23 of march

A prison is where a sentence is put in place: the term from latin "prehensio" states for the action of taking, catching. In the past the term "dungeon" was related to the prisons in medieval castels. They were hidden places, often underground, dark and unconfortable. Prisons were born with the birth of the civilian society and at the beginning they had the aim to separate from the community those people who were considered a threat for themselves and for the others.

In Naples, one of the most famous and terrible prisons was in the bowels of Castel dell'Ovo. Its first eminent guest was Romolo Augustolo, the last emperor in Rome, so in the west, that Odoacre kept damnatus in Lucullano exilio from 476 a.c., but after him there were many others, like Corradino of Svevia, Arrigo of Castiglia, the young heirs of Manfredi kept in chains until their death, Ambrogino Visconti and Tommaso Campanella. The Castle became officially a prison in the XIX century, when the jacobins, the carbonari and the liberals – like Francesco De Sanctis, Carlo Poerio and Luigi Settembrini – occupied its spaces.

Today institutions are paying more attention to the issue of prisons, and the state of degradation in which part of the Italian correctional institutions is, is worrying. The general trend, in Europe and abroad, points to the gradual elimination of prisons to replace them with alternative systems of penalty and correction, that avoid situation that are often humiliating in the body and the spirit for the detained. Art and prisons, beauty and horror have always intertwined over time: the pain and deprivation reveal the basic elements of a certain type of reflection that Largo Barracche today wants to brush up, summoning his artists for a project that investigates detention and censorship as a basis for artistic production. Isolation as a

creative moment, the pain as fuel for the expression of self. The Castlel dell'Ovo today shows itself for what it once was through the filter of art, becoming the setting for a great collective Largo Barrache Project will open to the public from March 7 to 23.

Chiara Minieri



Complesso monumentale di Castel dell'Ovo via Eldorado n. 3 - presso via Partenope (borgo marinaro) La mostra è ad ingresso gratuito, orari: dal lunedi al sabato dalle 9.30 alle 18.30 info: <u>www.1opera.it</u> 3933641664 | 3335429081