

From Stone to Myth



MEGA GALMATA

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE

Brancaleone, RC, Italy, 2026



The project



European Commission



PAC Calabria 2014/2020

PAC Calabria 2014/2020 CUP J88J26000160008



Calabria Region



Calabria Straordinaria

Mega Galmata is the International Symposium of Monumental Sculpture held in Brancaleone from 26 September to 3 October 2026. In Grecanic, the name means 'large sculptures' and reflects the project's connection with the culture of the local area.

Seven artists from different backgrounds worked at the sculpture site set up at Hotel Alitalia. Alongside the making of the works, there were meetings, educational activities and opportunities for dialogue with the public. The sculptures were unveiled on 3 October.

This catalogue brings together the works and photographs of their creation. The photographic sequence preserves a record of the artists' work and accompanies the information needed to identify each sculpture.

Palazzo Spinelli Institute for Art and Restoration

The Institute, which organised the Symposium, was founded in Florence in 1976 by Francesco Antonio Amodei and has a local branch in Brancaleone. Its activities include education and training in art and restoration.

The Symposium community

The Symposium grew out of the shared efforts of those who organised it in Tuscany and Calabria, contributed their expertise and equipment, and took part in the meetings. The photographs preserve a record of this community and its contribution to Mega Galmata.



From left: Vasyl Tatarsky, Christos Tsoumplekas, Francesco Gallo Mazzeo, Solmaz Vilkhachi, Francesco Antonio Amodei, Kanta Kishore Moharana, Vighen Avetis, Wiktor Kopacz, Silvio Viola

— Hotel Alitalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The Greek-speaking area of Calabria

Greek-speaking Calabria, or Bovesia, is defined by the relationship between the Ionian side of the Reggio Calabria area, the villages of the Aspromonte and a Greek linguistic heritage that is still present in local cultural life. Landscapes, place names and traditions passed down through the communities form the setting in which Mega Galmata engaged with the theme of myth.

Grecanic, a language of memory

Grecanic, also known as Calabrian Greek, is part of the linguistic heritage of the region's Greek-speaking communities. Oral transmission has preserved words, stories, proverbs and idioms, in dialogue with craft traditions and everyday life. Knowledge of the language offers a way to understand the area through the voices of its inhabitants.

Bova and Grecanic culture

Bova, traditionally known as the Chòra of Bovesia, is one of the principal centres of this culture. The village brings together architectural heritage, meeting places and initiatives dedicated to learning about and reviving the language. Its position overlooking the Ionian landscape and the fabric of its historic centre reflect the links between memory, community and place.

The 'Gerhard Rohlfs' Museum of the Calabrian Greek Language makes this heritage accessible through documents, photographs and records of oral tradition. The linguist's work on the dialects and cultures of southern Italy helps to explain the depth of this heritage. In this setting, Mega Galmata's contemporary sculpture opens up a new way of engaging with the past.



Bova

Photograph: Antonio Galluccio

Brancaleone and Hotel Alitalia

On the Ionian coast of the Reggio Calabria area, Brancaleone brings together the coastal landscape and the remains of the ancient settlement of Brancaleone Vetus. Its historical traces and relationship with the sea provide the setting in which the Symposium developed.

The area's history also includes Cesare Pavese's period of internal exile, which began in 1935. The Dimora del Confino now preserves records of his stay and serves as a place for cultural encounters.

The sculpture site at Hotel Alitalia

Hotel Alitalia, the Symposium's main partner, hosted the sculpture site and the creation of the seven sculptures. Within the hotel grounds, the artists shared the work of carving stone and engaging with the public. For Brancaleone, Mega Galmata's lead municipality, Alitalia was a meeting place for hospitality and artistic creation, from working the blocks to presenting the finished works.

The works in the local area

The works are intended for the Municipality of Brancaleone and the Hotel Alitalia Museum.



Brancaleone
Photograph: Filippo Armonio

Hotel Alitalia



Hotel Alitalia, Brancaleone (RC).
Photograph: Domenico Politanò — Hotel Alitalia archive.

THE THEME

From Stone to Myth

At the sculpture site in Brancaleone, Lecce limestone became the starting point for seven interpretations of myth. From the rough block to the finished sculpture, the artists' work transformed the material into figures, signs and stories. The works retain the character of this shared experience.



Rough marble blocks — Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino



The completed sculptures — Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

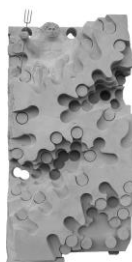
Artists and works

The theme of the 2026 edition brings together material and the imaginative world of myth. Stone becomes the starting point for a process in which seven artistic languages engage with figures, symbols and stories.

Select an artist's name to open their entry.



Vighen Avetis
Minotaur



Wiktor Kopacz
Poseidon



Kanta Kishore Moharana
Wings of Victory



Vasyl Tatarskyy
Siren



Christos Tsoumplekas
Gorgon



Solmaz Vilkachi
The Song of the Algorithm



Silvio Viola
Lernaean Hydra

Photographs of the works: Adriana Marino — Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Project staff

Project originator and director

Francesco Antonio Amodei

Founder and honorary president of the Istituto per l'Arte e il Restauro "Palazzo Spinelli", Florence.

Staff in Tuscany

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Elena Amodei — International relations

Giulia Bartolomei — Cataloguing of works of art

Carla Bonini — Administrative management

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Grazia Furferi — Public relations

Fabio Stillitano — Logistics

Francesco Stillitano — Logistics

Mimmo Tuscano — Press office

Carmine Verduci — Communications

Scientific Committee

Prof. Pierfranco Bruni

Writer and anthropologist. President of the 'Virgilio Italo Bruni' Institute of Ethnoanthropology.

Dr Julian Demurjian

IT specialist, founder and CEO of Net Fluent, Inc., a company based in San Francisco.

Prof. Claudio Paolini

Member of the general management of the Roberto Longhi Foundation for Art History Studies in Florence.

Dr Vincenzo De Angelis

General practitioner in Brancaleone. Director of the Reggio Calabria branch of the Institute for the History of the Italian Risorgimento.

Dr Sara Martini

Technical officer for the National Digitisation Plan at the State Archives of Reggio Calabria.

Dr Antonino Tringali

Legal practitioner. Curator of the Dimora del Confino of Cesare Pavese in Brancaleone.

Artistic and technical direction

Prof. Francesco Gallo Mazzeo

Artistic Director

Art critic and historian.

Research and curatorship in painting, sculpture and photography.

Artistic direction of the Mega Galmata Symposium.

Vighen Avetis

Technical Director

Armenian sculptor working in Florence and Carrara.

Experience in international sculpture symposia.

Technical direction of the Mega Galmata Symposium.

WORK 01 OF 07 PROFILE

Vighen Avetis

Armenia

Profile

An Armenian sculptor working in Florence and Carrara, he trained in Yerevan, Poznań and Florence. He has conceived and curated international symposia of monumental sculpture.

Minotaur

Mega Galmata 2026



Vighen Avetis — Palazzo Campanella, Reggio Calabria (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The material

Vighen Avetis / Minotaur



The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The work

Vighen Avetis / Minotaur



The work — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

Minotaur

Title	Minotaur
Artist	Vighen Avetis
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder and by pitching off the waste stone. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	140 × 227 × 45 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

WORK 02 OF 07 PROFILE

Wiktor Kopacz

Poland

Profile

Having trained in sculpture in Minsk, he has created works in many countries. His sculptures are held in museums and permanent collections internationally.

Poseidon

Mega Galmata 2026



Wiktor Kopacz — Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Carmine Verduci

The material

Wiktor Kopacz / Poseidon

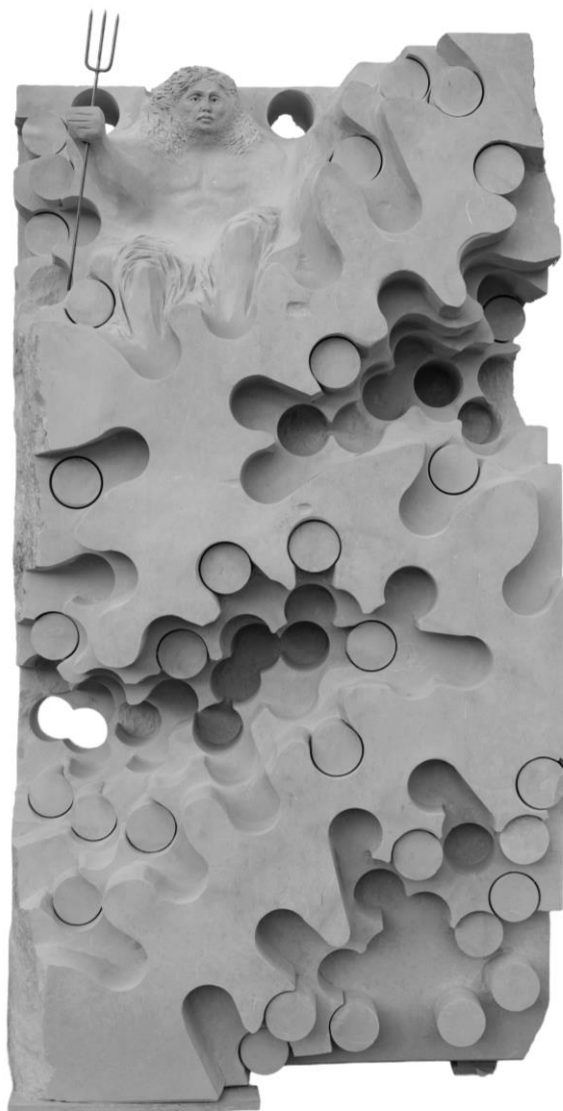


The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The work

Wiktor Kopacz / Poseidon



The work — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

Poseidon

Title	Poseidon
Artist	Wiktor Kopacz
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder, pitching off the waste stone and core drilling. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	254 × 137 × 60 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

WORK 03 OF 07 PROFILE

Kanta Kishore Moharana

India

Profile

Originally from Odisha, he trained in Bhubaneswar and Kolkata. He works with different materials and techniques and takes part in international exhibitions and events.

Wings of Victory

Mega Galmata 2026



Kanta Kishore Moharana — Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The material

Kanta Kishore Moharana / Wings of Victory



The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalone (RC)

Photograph: Carmine Verduci

The work

Kanta Kishore Moharana / Wings of Victory



The work — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

Wings of Victory

Title	Wings of Victory
Artist	Kanta Kishore Moharana
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder and by pitching off the waste stone. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	137 × 260 × 60 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

WORK 04 OF 07 PROFILE

Vasyl Tatarskyy

Ukraine

Profile

Born in Ukraine in 1960, he trained in Kosiv and Leningrad. A member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine, he takes part in international symposia.

Siren

Mega Galmata 2026



Vasyl Tatarskyy — Hotel Alitalia, Brancalone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The material

Vasyl Tatarskyy / Siren



The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalene (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The work

Vasyl Tatarskyy / Siren



The work — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

Siren

Title	Siren
Artist	Vasyl Tatarskyy
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder and by pitching off the waste stone. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	194 × 90 × 58 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

WORK 05 OF 07 PROFILE

Christos Tsoumplekas

Greece

Profile

A Cretan sculptor and ceramicist, he trained in Faenza and Bologna. He exhibits in Greece and Italy and founded the Materia Prima workshop.

Gorgon

Mega Galmata 2026



Christos Tsoumplekas — Gerhard Rohlfs Museum, Bova (RC)
Photograph: Adriana Marino

The material

Christos Tsoumplekas / Gorgon



The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The work

Christos Tsoumplekas / Gorgon



The work — Hotel Alitalia, Brancalione (RC)

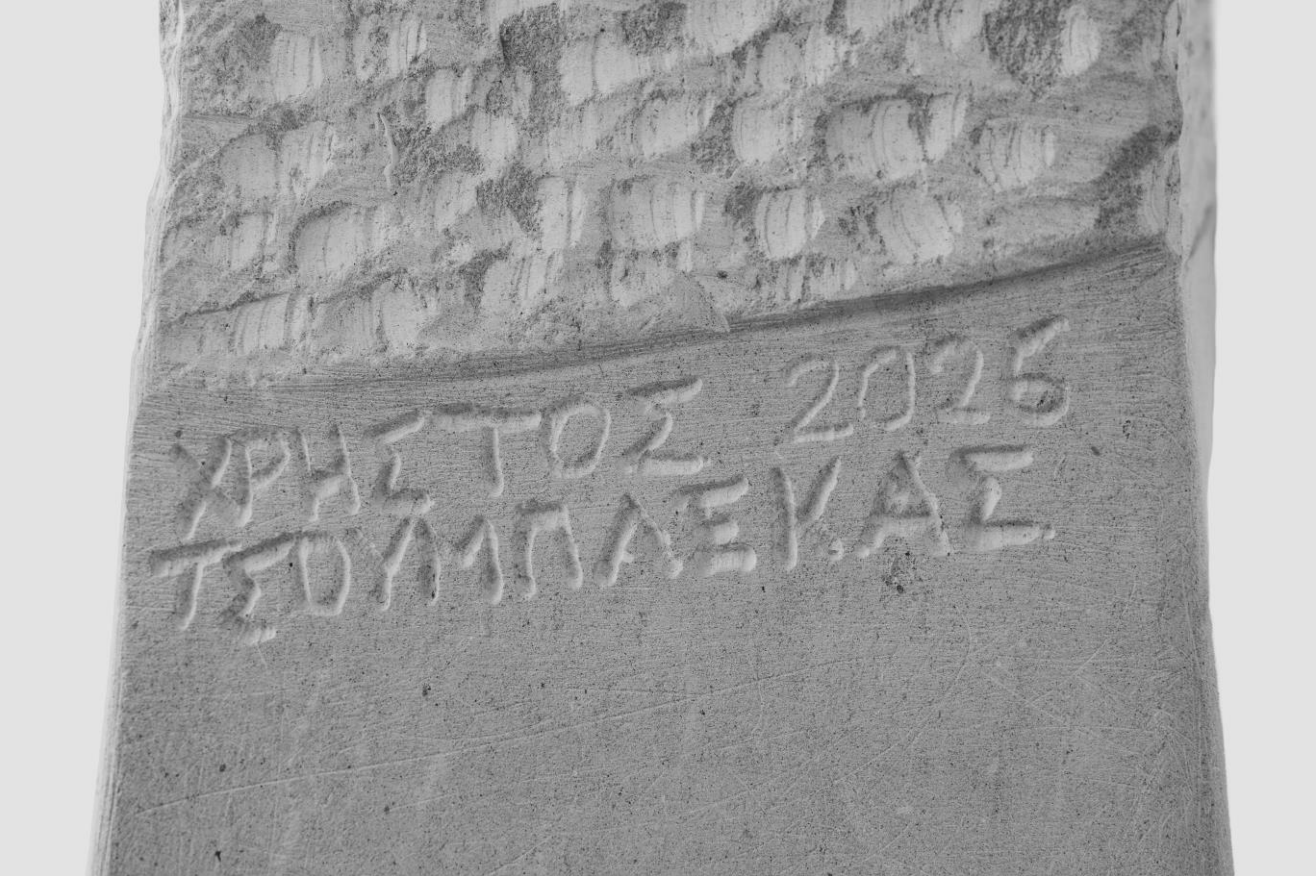
Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

Gorgon

Title	Gorgon
Artist	Christos Tsoumplekas
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder and by pitching off the waste stone. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	198 × 105 × 50 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

WORK 06 OF 07 PROFILE

Solmaz Vilkachi

Iran

Profile

Born in Tehran and based in Rome, she trained at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Her artistic research addresses identity, memory and the environmental crisis.

The Song of the Algorithm

Mega Galtata 2026



Solmaz Vilkachi — Hotel Alitalia, Brancalone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The material

Solmaz Vilkachi / The Song of the Algorithm



The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalene (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The work

Solmaz Vilkachi / The Song of the Algorithm



The work — Hotel Altalia, Brancalione (RC)

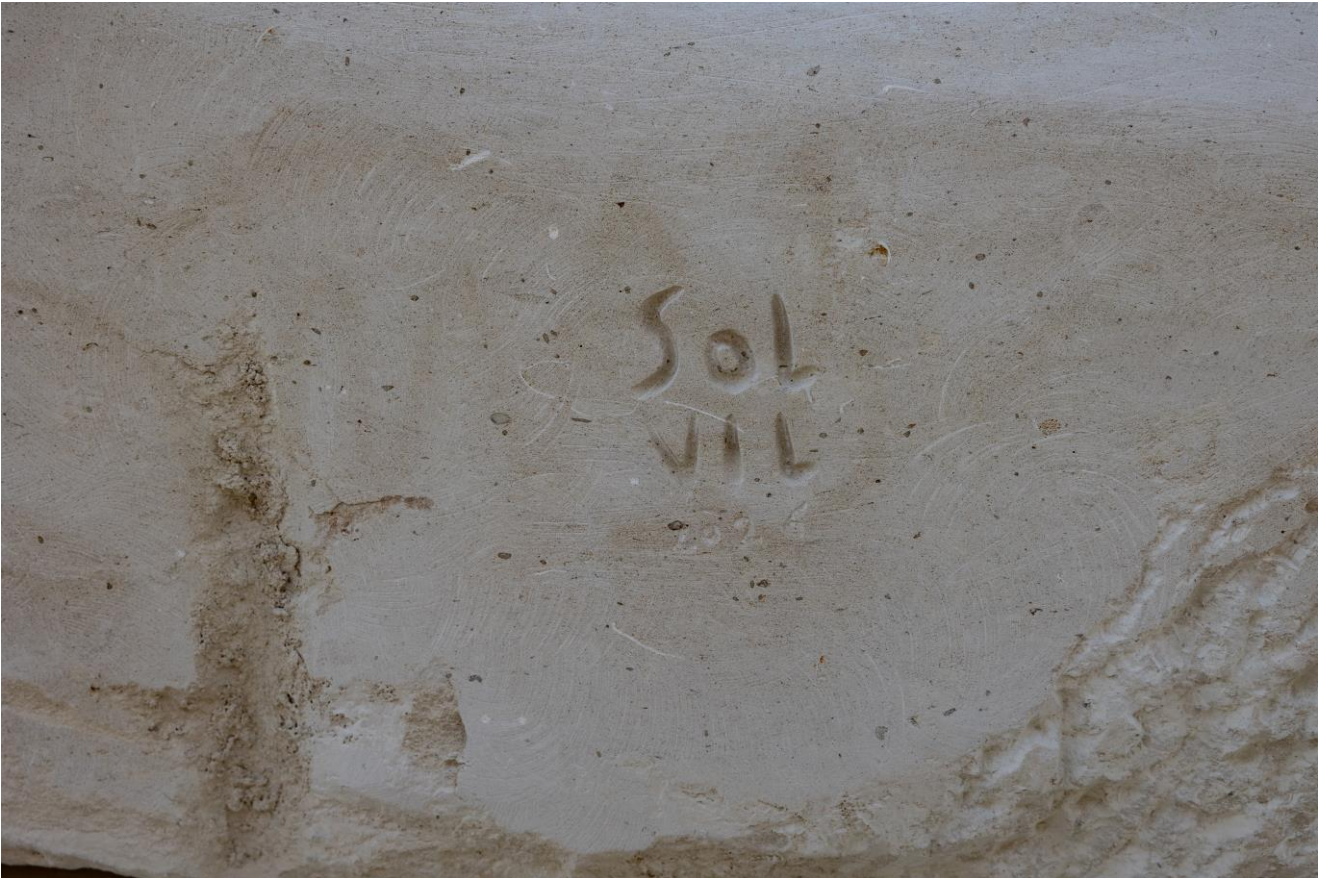
Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

The Song of the Algorithm

Title	The Song of the Algorithm
Artist	Solmaz Vilkachi
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder and by pitching off the waste stone. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	128 × 207 × 57 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

WORK 07 OF 07 PROFILE

Silvio Viola

Italy

Profile

A sculptor and teacher, he graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence in 1979. He has created permanent installations and taken part in exhibitions and events in Italy and abroad.

Lernaean Hydra

Mega Galmata 2026



Silvio Viola — Palazzo Campanella, Reggio Calabria (RC)
Photograph: Adriana Marino

The material

Silvio Viola / Lernaean Hydra



The material — Hotel Altalia, Brancalene (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The work

Silvio Viola / Lernaean Hydra



The work — Hotel Altalia, Brancalene (RC)

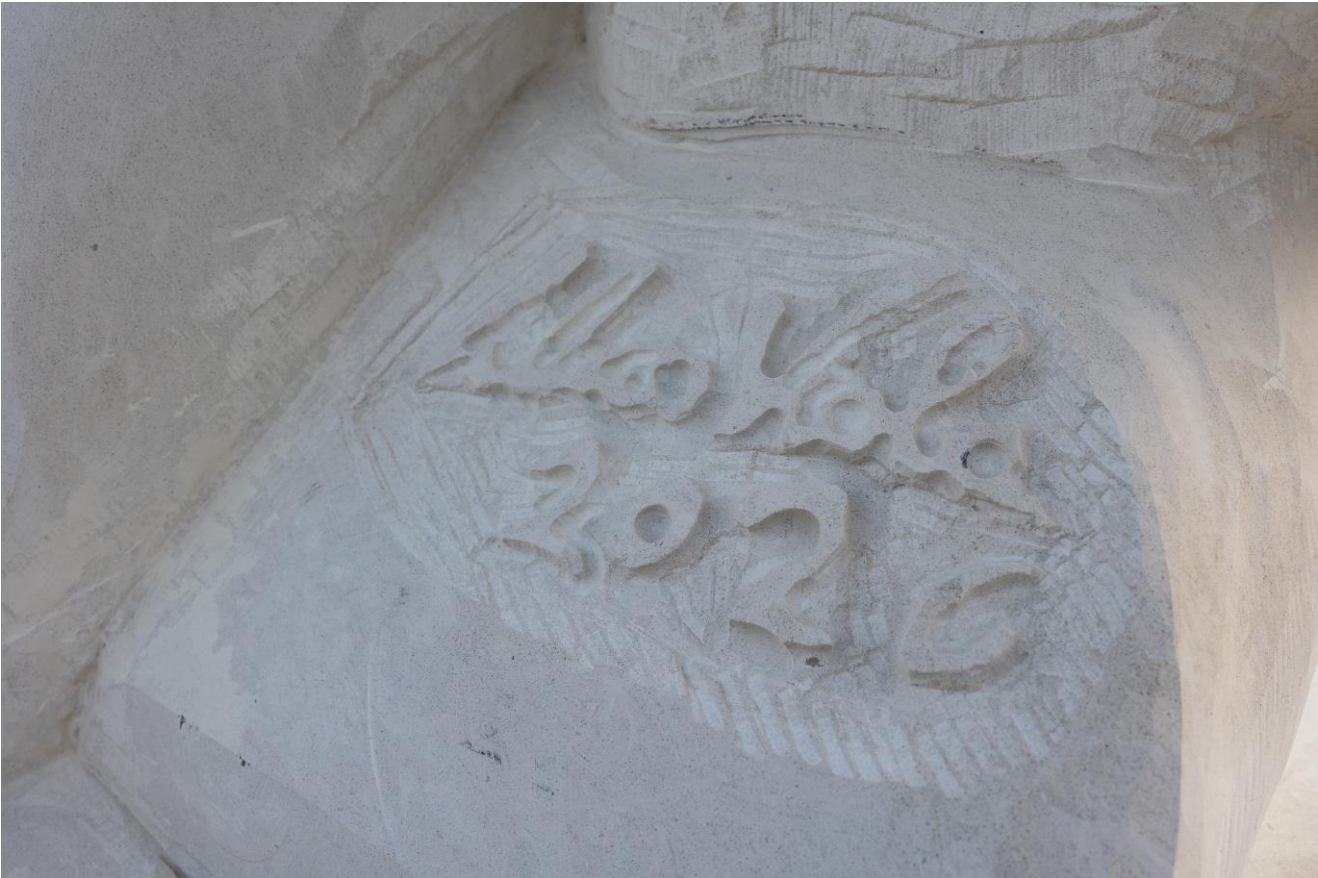
Photograph: Adriana Marino

Technical details

Lernaean Hydra

Title	Lernaean Hydra
Artist	Silvio Viola
Year	2026
Material and technique	Lecce limestone The sculpture was blocked out using parallel cuts with an angle grinder and by pitching off the waste stone. Further roughing-out with hand chisels and a pneumatic hammer. Finishing with abrasive discs, rotary cutters and rasps. Hand sanding with abrasive papers.
Dimensions	140 × 220 × 63 cm
Location	—

The signature



Hotel Altalia, Brancaleone (RC)

Photograph: Adriana Marino

The people and institutions

The seven artists, institutions and local organisations contributed to making the Symposium in Brancaleone possible.

Organisers, partners, associations and professionals supported the project with expertise, services and activities for the community.

Organisation and partners

Palazzo Spinelli Institute for Art and Restoration

AREA.05 by Francesco Stillitano

Hotel Altalia

Press office: Mimmo Tuscano

The municipalities

Brancaleone, lead municipality

Bova

Bruzzano Zeffirio

Sant'Agata del Bianco

The local network

Brancaleone's Pro Loco association, cultural associations and local technical and production businesses contributed to the hospitality, site set-up and activities of the Symposium.



Credits

Mega Galmata

International Symposium of Monumental Sculpture

Brancaleone, 26 September – 3 October 2026

The project

Project conception and direction

Francesco Antonio Amodei

Artistic direction

Francesco Gallo Mazzeo

Technical direction

Vighen Avetis

Press office

Mimmo Tuscano

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Marco Caridi

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Symposium of Monumental Sculpture CUP J88J26000160008

Patronage



Brancaleone (Lead municipality)



Bova



Bruzzano Zeffirio



Sant'Agata del Bianco



Alitalia (Main partner)



Casa Pavese Brancaleone



Cavour Pacinotti Institute



“Flores” Cultural Heritage Institute



Kalabria Experience



Palazzo Spinelli ETS



Pro Loco Brancaleone



SISTUR

