

# Romina De Novellis



Works  
2011-2013

I'm a performance artist, I'm the most hybrid language in art, I stand by the thesis that is defended by anti-psychiatry. My body is the center of my questioning, it is both the object of my work and the subject of my research. My body is a way to denounce all abuse and limitations of the contemporary society regarding our bodies. I make my body available to create a living picture to share with the public. The Site's specific installations, video installations, photos and videos are traces and art work issues from my performances.

My performances are very long and the gestures are repetitive. The repetition that I use serves as a magnifying glass of the details of our lives. Emphasis is not so much on repetition but on time. I want to share time, a moment with the audience. "Hic et nunc". At a time when the virtual allows you to do thousands of things at the same time, it's a challenge for me to hold the audience's gaze for more than ten minutes. Repetition isn't only in my movement but also in this gaze: for once they are just watching one thing repeat itself over and over. They have to adapt to a different pace. Some come only for the beginning and end up staying for several hours.

My body is at the service of an analysis and a critique of the cultural and political systems that afflict the Mediterranean and its people, in contemporary history. I work on the issues regarding the Euro-Mediterranean area. My cause is regarding the condition of women in the wider context of all the cultures of the Mediterranean and not only of the Western Society, the drama that refugees and migrants go through crossing our waters, LGBT rights and people with disabilities, and more precisely the physical and psychological precariousness, the internal hypocrisies of a social system that crushes human beings and reduces them to a carcass that drags itself into everyday life.

I consider my country Italy as in the middle of a sort of a "sandwich": Italy is actually pressed between Africa and Europe, and it represents the "Limbo Zone" of these two opposite worlds. Italy is in the "South of Europe" and is the "North of Africa" at the same time and in the same metaphoric geographical area as a large continent, the "Eurafrica", without borders but with all the political, economic and cultural blocks and limits.

All my work is entirely inspired and dedicated to my origins and my personal story. I integrate myself into a discourse linked to the Mediterranean. My story and my body then become metonymies of a wider vision of common history.

**2013**



*Un tableau vivant of a beast.*

*A woman, locked in a square screen cage, 200 white roses at her feet. A claustrophobic dimension of the “woman being”, metaphor of the relationships, of domination from which she is the victim. The spectators will be the witnesses of her body that she doesn't want to show. The gesture, repetitive and slow, is symbolic of her mental weakness. The artist erases her body and spirit through a tragic yet poetic gesture, pushing 500 white roses one-by-one through the walls of a cage until she is completely obscured.*

Produced by Coton Doux Paris

October, 21, 2013, Parcours Saint-Germain, Paris

Video: Mauro Bordin ® DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013

## L'APE

La Friche Belle de Mai / Marseille Capitale de la Culture  
Marseille 2013



*Group show / Performances program*

*A procession of the queen bee. The death of all bees, the end of the ecosystem. The impact of man on nature.*

Curated by Mehdi Brit

Produced by La Friche Belle de Mai / Asterid / Le Cartel / Marseille Capitale de la Culture

July 4, 2013, La Friche Belle de Mai, Marseille

Videography: La Friche Belle de Mai

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013



## MAMMA MIA

Almost 100 years of misunderstanding and similarities

Venice Biennale – Opening week 2013



*A tableau vivant of 3 women generations.*

*Video installation and performance live. Angelina is Antonietta's mother, which is Romina's mother.*

Curated by Roberta Semeraro

Produced by Romina De Novellis

May 28, 2013, Opening week – Venice Biennale – Officina delle Zattere

Video: Andrés Arce Maldonado © DE NOVELLIS / MALDONADO 2013

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013

## LA PECORA

Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature / La Nuit des Musées  
Paris 2013



*Like a sort of Arachnee taken out from the greek/roman mythology, the artist brushes 300 kg of raw wool attempting to spin it. The form of the labyrinth is inspired by the form of the brain. The woman is in the center of her brain. Like an animal leaking its hair, the woman is an actor of the metamorphosis process of both material and body.*

Curated by Mehdi Brit

Produced by Musée de la chasse et de la nature

May 18, 2013, Musée de la chasse et de la nature / La Nuit des musées

Video : © DE NOVELLIS / MALDONADO 2013

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013

**2012**



## LA GHIRLANDA

Le Générateur / Frasq/ Performing Art Festival  
Paris 2012



*A sexy and tragic dance during a family party. A dance of the trance, 2 hours non stop.  
A striptease of the women condition.*

Produced by Le Générateur  
October 21, 2012, Le Générateur / Frasq / Performing art festival, Paris  
Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

**FORZA FRANCIA, VIVA ITALIA!**

La Nuit Blanche

Paris 2012



*A competition between French flag and Italian Flag to see who comes last! A parody of European crisis.  
The images of two decadent Mariannas!*

Produced by Romina De Novellis

In collaboration with Elvira Frosini

October 6, 2012, La Nuit Blanche, Paris

Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012



**THE WEDDING**  
**The weight of a life together**  
Dimanche rouge / Performing art festival  
Paris 2012



*A procession of a bride who carries the burden of the common life.  
An icon of the boredom of everyday life and of the effort of staying together.*

Produced by Romina De Novellis  
September 16, 2012, Dimanche rouge / Performing art festival, Paris  
Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012  
Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012



*A procession of the “last supper”.  
A procession of a cannibal who ate all the guests.  
In the end, only a woman remains, and she drives the everyday life, her entire family.*

Produced by Romina De Novellis  
June, 2, 2012, Paris – La Nuit des Galeries  
Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013  
Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013



**LA GABBIA**

Le 7.5 Club

Paris 2012



*Live performance about the universal suffering of the body*

*Photo and sculpture installations*

*The artist erases her body and spirit through a tragic yet poetic gesture, pushing 500 white roses one-by-one through the walls of a cage until she is completely obscured.*

Produced by Le 7.5 Club Paris

May 4, 2012, Paris – Le 7.5 Club

Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013

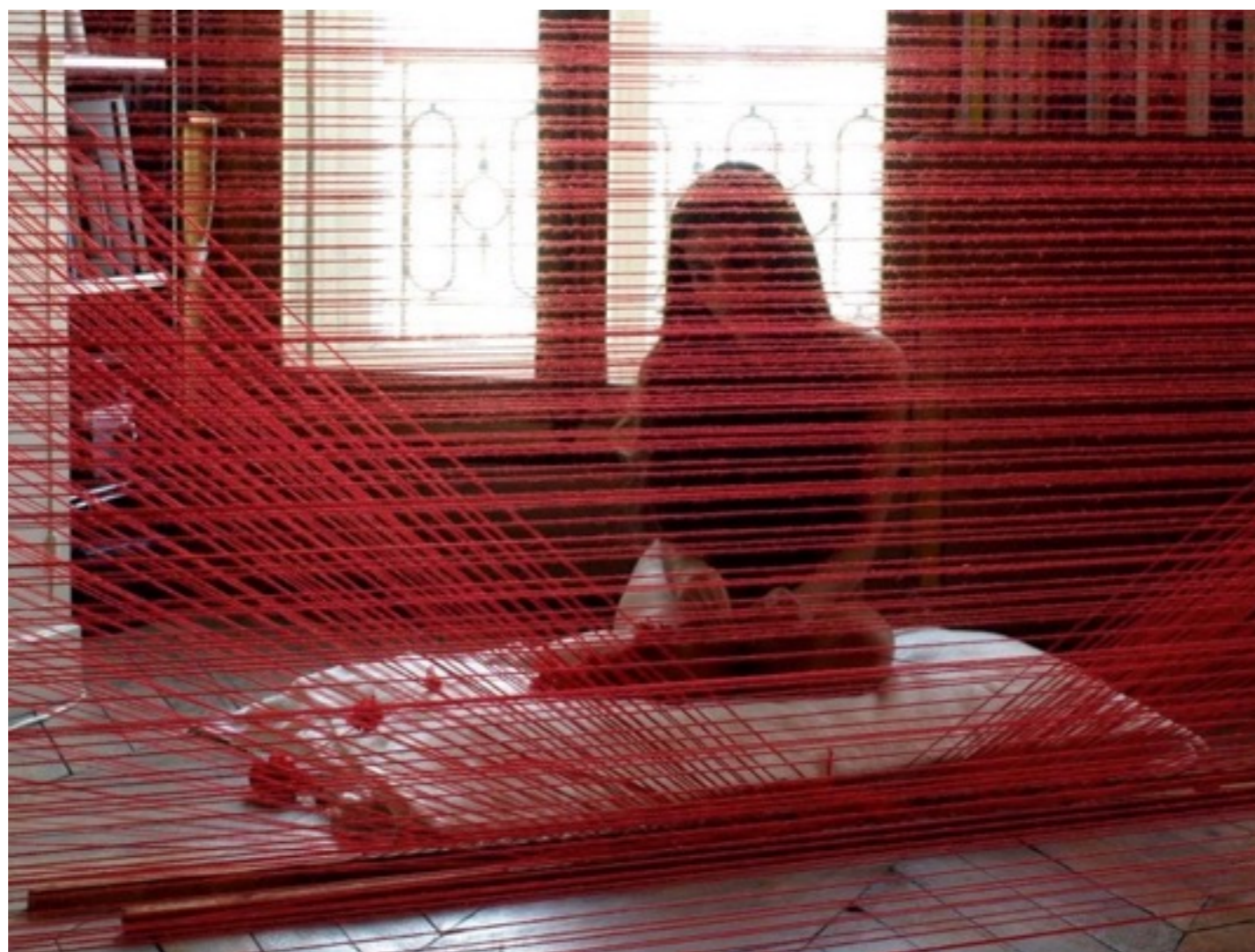
Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2013



## LA VEGLIA

Private collection

Paris 2012



*Private performance for a private art collection from 12pm to 9pm non stop*

*The body, naked, gets accustomed to the place and settles there for the entire day. The spectators can pass by and pay tribute to the body and stay there as long as they please. A screen of red threads is installed across the main room. From noon till dawn, the woman will create a sculpture of red knots: the thread knots has an allegory of prayer beads, the rosary for this long eve, or awaiting scene. The body will weave 2000 meters of red thread during the all day, unwinding progressively by hand the entire thread installation from top to bottom.*

February 12, 2012, private collection, from 12pm to 9pm

Video: Mauro Bordin and Romina De Novellis © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

## LA MOLTIPLICAZIONE

Zico House

Beirut 2012



*A performing action with the interaction of some citizens.*

*To clean the fish in the street. Imitate and share a simple gesture to it a language that brings together all the Mediterranean cultures: Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Orthodox.*

*The number in each city increases exponentially by 2 at each performance.*

Produced by Canada for the Arts

With the support of Zico House

In collaboration with Nadine Sures

January, 7, 2012, Beirut – Hamra

Video: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2012

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

**2011**

LABN  
milk / sperm  
Darb 1718 / Resistance  
Cairo 2011



*The artist cleaned her body with milk.  
She offered to drink milk in which I had washed myself.  
The public agreed to drink the milk dirty by the body and by gesture.*

Curated by Moataz Nasr  
Produced by Darb 1718  
December 17, 2011, Cairo Resistance / group show and performance program  
Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011



**VENUS LAVE LES CHIFFONS**  
Le 104/ Jeune création/ Fondation  
Ricard  
Paris 2011



*I cleaned thousands of shoes, clothes, rags, bedding, sheets ... The 104 were the elderly funeral.*

Curated by David Zerbib

Produced by Jeune création

With the support of Fondation Ricard, Le 104

November 12, 2011, Le 104, Jeune Création, Paris

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011





*From the Place de Clichy to the périphérique, the artist pushed the stroller full of soup.  
She gave food to all citizens that she met on the street.  
People have eaten and then followed the long performance until the périphérique.*

Produced by Romina De Novellis  
With the support of Mairie de Clichy  
October 1, 2011, La Nuit Blanche, Paris

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011  
Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

**LALUCCIOLA**

Lady Fest

Roma 2011



*The artist has been cared for by a community of women on the margins of society.*

*They have washed the artist, fed her, clothed her.*

*By taking care of the artist, they have taken care of themselves.*

Produced by Lady Fest

September 17, 2011, Lady Fest

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

**LA MOLTIPLICAZIONE**  
Avignon 2011



*An itinerant performance in the Mediterranean basin.  
A performing action with the interaction of some of the citizens.*

Produced by Canada for the Arts

In collaboration with: Nadine Sures

July, 7, 2011, Avignon

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

Video: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2011



## LA MOLTIPLICAZIONE

Paris 2011



*An itinerant performance in the Mediterranean basin.  
A performing action with the interaction of some of the citizens.*

Produced by: Canada for the Arts

In collaboration with: Nadine Sures

June, 28, 2011, Paris, Synagogue – rue Pavée

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

Video: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2011

## LA MOLTIPLICAZIONE

La Grande Mosquée  
Paris 2011



*An itinerant performance in the Mediterranean basin.  
A performing action with the interaction of some of the citizens.*

Produced by Canada for the Arts

In collaboration with Nadine Sures

June, 27, 2011, Paris, La Grande Mosquée

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

Video: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2011



## LA MOLTIPLICAZIONE

St Eustace Church

Paris 2011



*An itinerant performance in the Mediterranean basin.  
A performing action with the interaction of some of the citizens.*

Produced by: Canada for the Arts

In collaboration with: Nadine Sures

June, 20, 2011, Paris, St Eustace Church

Photo: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2011

Video: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2011

## LACULLA

Venice Biennale, opening week / Le Zattere  
Venice 2011



*A pregnant woman, like a ghost, like a mummy, wanders lost in the exhibition area in search of a place to give birth.  
The body, illuminated by Pia MyrvoLD's video projections, will be installed atop the Tunnel Vision.  
The Cradle where she will open her stomach with her hands and cause birth.*

Produced by: Romina De Novellis In collaboration with: Pia Myworld

Mai, 31, 2011, Venice Biennale, opening week

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

Videography: Christine Barbe © De NOVELLIS / BARBE 2011

## LE BAPTEME

Mairie de Paris / La Nuit des Galeries  
Paris 2011



*A work about the sense of the human belonging to a culture and a society,  
and how our body and our history depend of the decisions of our parents and our cultural context.  
In this context body and person are not free to deciding,  
then we will discover adult as Christians, as Muslims, as Jews, as poor or as rich...*

Produced by Romina De Novellis

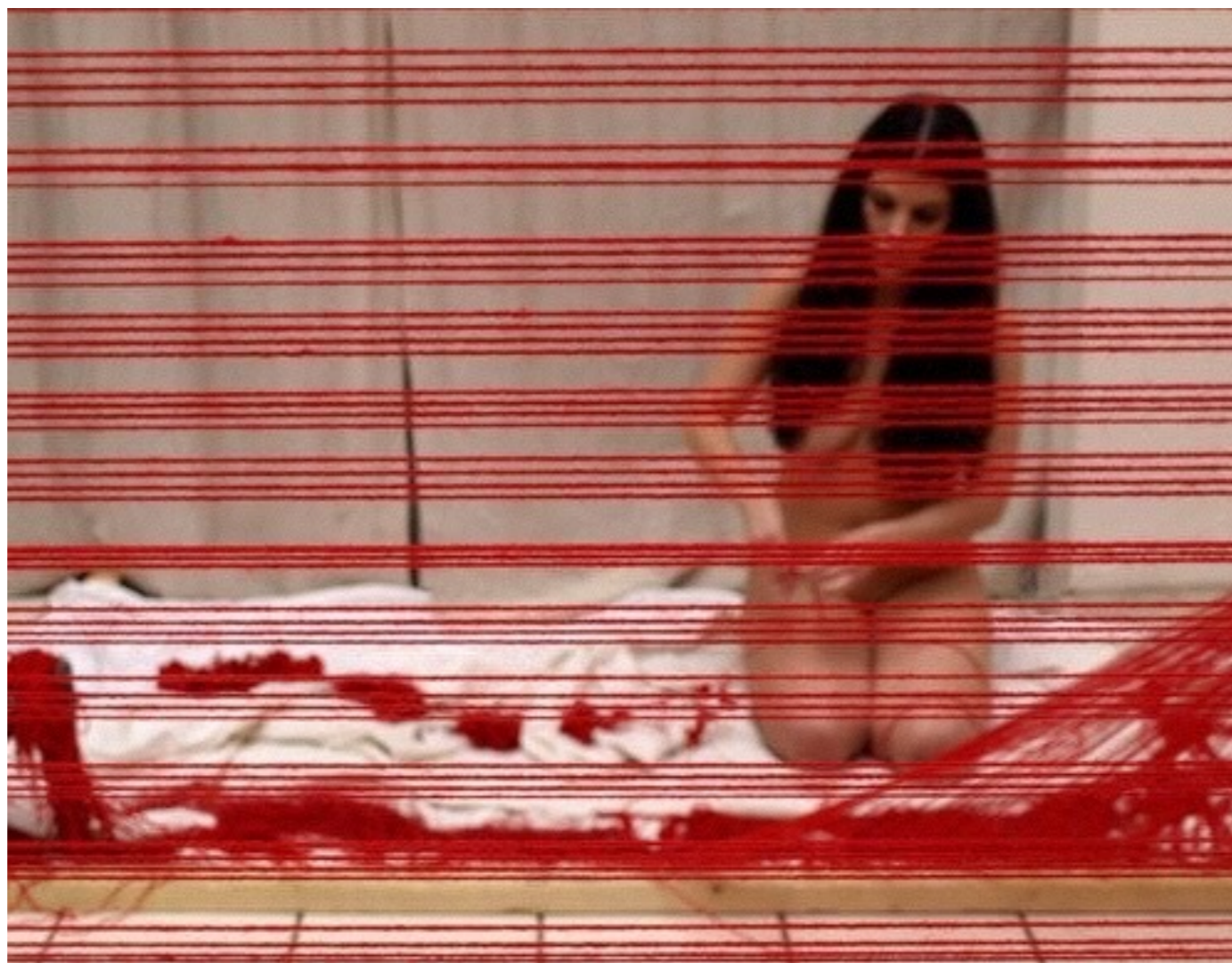
Mai, 22, 2011, Paris, Mairie de Paris / La Nuit des Galerie

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011

Videography: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011



**LA VEGLIA**  
Private collection  
Paris 2011



*Private performance for a private art collection from 12pm to 9pm non stop*

Avril 3, 2011, private collection, Paris

Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

Video: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2012

FIL  
Monoprix  
Paris 2011



*A tribute to all women who work hard.  
A performance on the alienation at work.  
The repetition of the gesture as a prison.*

Produced by Mairie de Paris  
With the support of MONOPRIX  
March 5, 2011, MONOPRIX, Place de la République Paris  
Photo: Mauro Bordin © DE NOVELLIS / BORDIN 2011  
Videography: Yves Prince © DE NOVELLIS / PRINCE 2011

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