



QUIXOTE by Pollock Project

Visual jazz and contemporary art with the visionary style of Don Quixote

POLLOCK PROJECT have now brought out their second album: *Quixote*, inspired by the visionary hero *par excellence*: Don Quixote.

The 11 tracks of *Quixote*, published by the label **Helikon** and distributed by **Egea**, confirm the original and evocative sound of the trio, which is constructed upon the particular lyrical timbre of **Marco Testoni**'s Caisa drum, the percussive colours of **Max Di Loreto**'s drumming and the phrasing of **Nicola Alesini**'s soprano sax. This is an open and artistically omnivorous project of collaboration (including jazz, minimalism, electronic and traditional folk music) that on this CD is enriched by the musical contributions of Cecilia Silveri on the violin and Federico Mosconi on guitars. There is also the artistic and visual input of the filmmaker Marco "Sfanto" Testoni and the video-makers Manuel Zarpellon and Giorgia Lorenzato who have created the video-clips of the concert and the mashup videos accompanying it. For this CD the painter Antonia Carmi has created the watercolour painting for the album cover, as she did for the band's previous album.

Non-aligned, united by their need for creative freedom, the members of Project Pollock paint a highly visual music based on the suggestive interweaving of loops that are inspired by various different themes and arts upon which they pour themes and improvisations in a genuine musical dripping. On the basis of the same loops they realize the videos that accompany their concerts, which are a combination of the mashup and video art. The group pursues its artistic ideals around the theme of art-jazz, in which the interaction with other art forms, particularly contemporary art, is essential and in the company of Don Quixote it goes on a journey with the energy of the imagination, and poetic inspiration, which becomes action and passion. This is a sincere tribute to some of the most original and far-sighted visionaries in the worlds of art and society. People with different stories and areas of activity but who were able to change the world through their unusual and surprising creativity.

Thus, after having dealt in their first CD with the action painting of **Jackson Pollock** (hence the name of the group), as well as **Marcel Duchamp** and the great artists of the 20th century, with *Quixote* they have now put on the armour of Don Quixote and other visionaries of great social battles and they

address the issue of women's rights in India by telling the story of the **Gulabi Gang**, a group of Indian woman vigilantes and activists, in addition to the troubled theme of violence against women with **The Blackout** (the original soundtrack theme of the movie "Black Out" written by Testoni himself). They examine the social value of music by presenting the story of the Brazilian **Pe No Chao**, a group of educators and street artists working for children and adolescents in the slums of Recife, with a video made in collaboration with **Mani Tese** (the famous Italian organization that has been realizing integrated development programs in 17 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America since 1964) using images from the project "*Dalla strada alla scuola*" (from the street to the school), which aims to help these street children.

But **L'Isola** (a working class neighborhood of Milan that was recently demolished to make way for new structures and shopping centers) also refers to contemporary art, and they do not lose sight of humour and romanticism, the fundamental ingredients of their music, in **Julio et Carol** which refers to the journey in **Julio Cortazar's** book "Autonauts of the Cosmoroute". A couple of jazz standards, revisited and revised again through a visionary lens, could not be absent: **After the Rain** is a homage to the great music and spirituality of **John Coltrane**, and the extravagant cosmic jazz of **Sun Ra** is recalled with **Angels and Demons at Play** which is accompanied by the beautiful video animation of **Marco Sfantò Testoni**. There is also a reference to the musical tradition of Sardinia with **Su Ballittu**, a re-examination of the most archaic of Mediterranean cultures.

The concert

A concert where the stage is filled with images and music that establish an exciting and surprising dialogue. A visionary musical project that is capable of steering a course without fears and formalisms between the atmospheres of *world music* and *jazz* improvisations, including *ambient* shades, *minimalism* and reminiscences of *rock* in an marvellous and evocative mix. The magic of the Caisa drum weaves the fabric and the outlines of this musical painting and the percussion creates a sophisticated and versatile drawing which interacts with the intense and refined melodies of a wind instrument. Pollock Project derives from the decades of musical and human experience of **Marco Testoni** and **Massimiliano Di Loreto**, further enhanced by the encounter with musicians such as Nicholas Alesini who painted the first few precious canvases of this musical project, now it continues in collaboration with **Simone Salza**. Pollock Project is built on the force of the intuition and the aesthetics of **Art-Jazz** which is able to conceive of a "visual music" with intense colors and surrealist references, so that the live act is intertwined with the visual arts and video mashups. This is a musical tribute to the beauty of creative freedom, with numerous references to the visual arts of the twentieth century, as well as to the cinema and literature of our own day.