



**CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 13**  
**22-25 MARCH 2023**  
**WIDESPREAD IN VENICE**

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## **CRONOSTAR. STAR SYSTEM AND SENILITY**

Among the many offers of the **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival** this year there is a workshop on the concepts of star system and memory curated by **Francesco Pitassio**. When sociologist Edgar Morin wrote the first theoretical piece on the star system in 1957, he found the basis of the theory in the duality of stars and beauty. In the same year, André Bazin, in the context of an analysis of the figure of Humphrey Bogart, who had died prematurely, said, "What is no less admirable about Bogart's character is his refinement through decrepitude." These two observations are somewhat cohesive with each other, as the first highlights a distinctive feature of the star system in classic cinema, while the second highlights the exception to the rule. Are the rules and exceptions of this system the same as today? Does contemporary cinema offer the same star models, or have the different role of cinema in celebrity culture, changing audiences, and longer life expectancies in the age of advanced capitalism induced a transformation in the way human ideals are represented on the silver screen? This workshop will be a valuable opportunity to better understand this phenomenon. Francesco Pitassio teaches History of Cinema and Documentary Cinema at the University of Udine, where he is also a research delegate in his department. He is part of the steering committee of NECSUS-European Journal of Media Studies. His publications include: *Ombre silenziose. Teoria dell'attore cinematografico negli anni Venti* (2002), *Attore/Divo* (2003), *Il cinema neorealista* (con Paolo Noto, 2010) and *Neorealist Film Culture, 1945-1954. Rome, Open Cinema* (2019).

## **COSIMA MONTAVOCI**

This year's winner of **Ca' Foscari Short Film Festival** will receive as a prize a glass-made piece of art realized by **Cosima Montavoci**, who, alongside with **Lorenzo Passi**, created the project **Mollified**. This project is inspired by the ancient tradition of bestowing gifts to the deities. Artists reflect with irony and sympathy on this curious phenomenon, a human sign of gratitude or plea to a supernatural being. Montavoci and Passi put figures made of Murano glass with use of fire into frames of transparent glass, made out of hot glass, then they mounted them in various metallic *vintage* objects.

**Cosima Montavoci** was born in Venice in 1988. She started to work with glass almost by chance in 2004, then she got a degree in Fine Arts at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and worked in Amsterdam from 2015 to 2018. In 2018 she came back to Venice. Her work appeared in several exhibitions.

**Lorenzo Passi** was born in Milan in 1985. He lives and works in Venice. His enthusiasm for glass dates of 2005, when he started his studies at Murano during a long process of learning the art of glass making. His artistic debut dates to 2013 and since then he has exposed his works at personal and collective exhibitions both in Italy and abroad.