

ISOPTERA

isomalt, soil, refractory earth, variable size,
with Emma Castelnuovo, 2023

Termite mounds teeming with rubble populate the room. Inside they preserve pieces of tiles, industrial waste, and residues, among which three-dimensional letters made of sugar emerge. They have an order and a meaning too, but perhaps they are no longer important. They begin to compose scattered sentences and half-finished words. Nourishment for the soiled habitat, they slowly disappear under our eyes while termites are enlisted as decomposers of a new speaking mineral. The soil corrodes and consumes verbal matter for which there will be no archaeologists. In an ecosystem where the production of matter is almost uninterrupted, destruction is necessary.

Wood and organic are digested as a function of unconscious liberation. One of the rooms of the Villa Reale in Monza is inhabited by a colony of ghost termites, ready to eat it and free it from its architectural rigidity.

One specimen has lost one of its membranous wings and it lies in the rubble. The winged termites are the only individuals in the colony capable of procreating: after spectacular nuptial flights the males die, while the newly elected queens give life to new colonies. Here they lose their wings, start producing soldiers and workers and the cycle starts again.

The installation is made of five 1 m-sized mountains spread all around one of the rooms of the Royal Palace of Monza. The immersive soundtrack is composed by Emma Castelnuovo.





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