

SLEEPERS (resting has never been so peaceful)

ceramic, mortar, 160x60x40 cm, 2024

Outlining an absence and at the same time invoking an absolute presence, that of inhabiting, of being in a place with your whole self. Along the way we talk, we observe, we smell, labor, sing and move... but there always comes a moment when the only need is to stop, pause for a minute or for a few hours. Sleepers wants to occupy this 'unproductive' space of the journey where you don't proceed, moving physically forward. You simply stand, for once not above, but beneath the surface we usually walk and play out our lives on. The silhouettes, 'buried' in the earth, seem to sink into it, evoking the idea of a return to ground zero, to an open, welcoming horizontality.

Soil is not only the material used for the sculpture, but becomes a bridge between human and non-human beings. Clay is the same material forest dwellers use to dig their dens, insects to build their tunnels and humans to construct their first dwellings. The earth is a porous material full of meanings and interspecies connections: a place of burial, birth, protection and rest, intrinsically linked to the cyclical nature of life. The work exists autonomously in the place where it was conceived, but its presence is animated from time to time by visitors and temporary inhabitants. These presences stratify over time as new 'sleepers' let themselves be lulled by the rustic, cool beds, the scent of the soil and the sounds of the forest.

The work is site specific and conceived in two pieces placed in different places along the path of San Francesco d'Assisi, in Lazio, Italy. First one in Montegrappa square, Configni (RI) and the second one directly on the path. The work was created during the art residency "Cammino Contemporaneo" in September 2024.





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ceramic, mortar, 1,60x60x40 cm, 2024