

**CONTEMPORARY ART: Sicily, Mount Etna Takes the Stage in New York with the finissage of “Etna Eternal Flame”**

**CATANIA, July 15, 2025** – Mount **Etna**, Europe’s highest active volcano and a UNESCO “World Heritage Site” since 2013, will take center stage in New York on July 24 at 4:30 p.m. (local NY time) at the prestigious TOTAH contemporary art gallery in Manhattan. The occasion marks the closing event of *Etna Eternal Flame*, an international project by the cultural association **Basaltika**, which began on Mount Etna between 2023 and 2024 with installations by four contemporary artists at an altitude of 2,000 meters. The initiative was developed in collaboration with the scientific committee of the **Monira Foundation of New York**, the **Orestyadi Foundation of Gibellina**, and curated by **Ysabel Pinyol Blasi**, president of the New York-based foundation.

*Etna Eternal Flame* represents the first successful experiment in site-specific contemporary art created on an active volcano, at 1,980 meters above sea level. Four contemporary artists contributed to the project: New York-based **Aleksandar Duravcevic** with the sculptural piece *Benches for Etna*; German artist **Johannes Pfeiffer** with the land art installation *Prometeo*; the dreamlike oniric visions of Sicilian painter **Samantha Torrisi**; and the photographic narrative by **Oriana Tabacco**, all displayed for a year at the Visitor Center of the Municipality of Nicolosi, located at the same altitude.

The July 24 event at TOTAH will feature volcanologist **Stefano Branca**, Director of INGV’s Etna Observatory in Catania, and **Oriana Tabacco**, photographer, art history professor, and president of Basaltika, who will present the project’s documentary video. The event will be live-streamed on Basaltika’s social media channels.

*Etna Eternal Flame* was carried out under the patronage of the Etna Park Authority, the INGV – National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology of Catania, the Municipality of Nicolosi, and AIV – Italian Association of Volcanology. **Info:** [www.basaltika.it](http://www.basaltika.it)

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