

PROJECT ROOM

# ETTORE FAVINI

## *AU REVOIR*

Carré d'Art-Nîmes

22 February - 7 June 2020

photo Massimiliano Monnecchi



Press : Delphine Verrières-Gaultier - Carré d'Art

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# PRESENTATION OF THE EXHIBITION

Ettore Favini's oeuvre uses a variety of media to explore the relationship between a work and its surrounding reality, and the possibility of suppressing the boundaries between the individual and the collective, the private and the public. In 2015, Favini set off on a long path to rediscover a universe rendered visible through the chinks in the chain and the system. In the midst of an inconclusive future, *Au Revoir* retains an open temporality that wends its way through the memories of textiles within the area of the Mediterranean. The project will make its way from Sardinia to Genoa, Cairo, Chieri, then venture beyond the Alps to Nîmes. Four cities who have fabrics in common, whose origins have traversed the world over several centuries – “jeans” and “denim,” whose existences are intertwined.

The exhibition at the Carré d'Art, Musée d'Art Contemporain of Nîmes is presented as the conclusion of a long passage, both spatial and temporal, Favini pursued along the trails left by these textiles. This road has been a shared one, thanks to the curatorial support of Connecting Cultures (Milan), the collaboration of representatives and textile artisans from the Egyptian and North African communities in Milan, as well as the Fondazione per il Tessile in Chieri. As a result, the works on display are the repositories of the histories of lives, of families, of work and expertise. They explore the flow and borders of the Mediterranean world, from Antiquity to the present day, woven together with needle and thread. The backdrop to these works is the sea, the main historical player in this narrative. This is the preeminent concept behind the Carré d'Art exhibition. Centered on the metaphor of the sea and the life of these textiles, *Au Revoir* incites us to rethink the history of the world, notably our collective memory.

A large portion of the works shown, as well as the publication that relates the artistic project, examining a variety of different narratives and perspectives, has been published by Connecting Cultures.

## Exhibition Curator: Roberta Garieri

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**Ettore Favini** was born in 1974 in Cremona. He lives and works in Italy. His works have been shown in several major Italian and international institutions, notably: the Museo del Novecento (Milan); Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea (Milan); Galleria d'Arte Moderna (Milan); Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Torino); Museo Villa Croce (Genoa); Villa Medicis (Rome); American Academy (Rome); Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro (Nuoro); Italian Academy (New York); Istituto Italiano di Cultura (Tirana); SongEun Art Space (Seoul); Autostrada Biennale (Prizren), and the Domaine de Chamarande (Paris).

**Roberta Garieri** is a contemporary art history researcher (University of Rennes 2). As such, she takes an interest in the reformulation of the real and symbolic dimensions of exiled Chilean artists. She has dedicated her research efforts to the problems that arise from global cultural transfers, as well as the relationship between cultural production and social and political contexts. She has also contributed to *Hot Potatoes: Art, Politics, Exhibition Conditions*, and *Critique d'Art: Actualité Internationale de la Littérature Critique sur l'Art Contemporain* as well as AWARE, Archives of Women Artists Research and Exhibitions.

“Au Revoir is supported by the Italian Council (6th Edition, 2019) program to promote Italian contemporary art in the world under the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism”





## **Au Revoir: a pilgrimage to the Mediterranean charting the course set by jeans**

A voyage in space and time along the **Mediterranean** basin charting a course set by jeans, a fabric with ancient origins and a venerable star in the history of fashion and modern and contemporary dress. **Au Revoir**, a project spearheaded by the artist **Ettore Favini**, curated by **Connecting Cultures**, and winner of the 2019 **Italian Council grant**, transforms denim into a work of participatory art which will first debut in an exhibit in April 2020 at the **Carrè d'art contemporain of Nîmes** and later will be accessioned into the permanent collection of the **Museo del Novecento** in Milan.

**Au Revoir** is the product of research following the forgotten routes of the Mediterranean, our **Mare Nostrum** par excellence, not only a center for trade but also a place of conflict between peoples. The history of denim, a resistant cotton fabric, with its recognizable shade of **blue** reflecting the sea surrounded by the people of Southern Europe, the northern coast of Africa and the Middle East, is emblematic of a repressed identity hidden by the very sea that gave birth to European civilization through its places, nature, color, and culture.

Sensitive to the themes of **sustainable development**, the environment, remembrance and landscape, with **Au Revoir** Favini intends to reclaim one of the oldest traditions of the Mediterranean basin: the **weaving** and the rich intangible heritage that comes with it, through the intersection of stories, sources, craftsmanship, and symbols embodied by the fabric.

With **Au Revoir**, Favini delves deeper into the historical **memory of a fabric** that has united the cities of the Mediterranean basin since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. B.C. through his research carried out in Egypt (Al Fustat and Egyptian Museum in Cairo), in Athens (Benaki Museum), in Chieri (Fondazione per il Tessile e il Museo del Tessile), in Genova (Museo Diocesano), in Nîmes (Musée du Vieux Nîmes) and in Turin (Egyptian Museum). Among the discoveries of this fascinating historical reconstruction were the strong similarities between denim and fustian wefts, which originated in Al Fustat, an ancient suburb of Cairo, and later spread throughout Europe. This fabric was processed in a specific blue color in the areas surrounding Chieri since the 15th century.

Work on the project began in October 2019 with a series of workshops at the **Fondazione per il Tessile e il Museo del Tessile in Chieri** where the artisans selected by Connecting Cultures created fabric panels using five antique looms.



This was followed in November with a participatory laboratory at the **Museo del Novecento in Milan** with the Egyptian and North African community of Milan where pieces of fabric taken from everyday objects were collected. These pieces of fabric became the source elements of a large sail which is an integral part of Favini's installation: a testimonial of the contemporary stories brought by today's migrants and bound to the ancient stories of the tapestries.

Au Revoir will be displayed for the first time at the **Carré d'Art Contemporain in Nîmes** in an exhibition curated by Roberta Garieri and accompanied by a dedicated publication edited by Connecting Cultures. During Manifesta 2020 in France, the project and book will be presented at the **Dos Mares in Marseille**.

Between April and May 2020, the Au Revoir project will be presented at **NABA** in Milan and at the **Accademia Carrara** in Bergamo.

Additionally, in June 2020 a conference dedicated to the theme of Mediterranean identity will be held at the **Genova Zones Portuaires** – International Festival between the City and the Port.

The **journey of Au Revoir** will conclude at the Museo del Novecento in Milan which, having supported the project, will welcome the artistic installation of Ettore Favini into its permanent collection.

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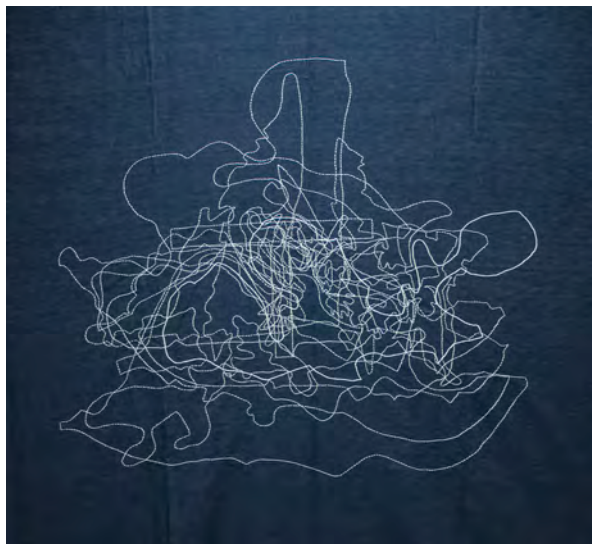
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*Au Revoir*, 2019, work in progress.  
Photo Massimiliano Monnecchi



*Mer de plusieurs noms*, 2019, embroidery on denim, 180 x 270 x 30 cm



*Mer fermée*, 2019, cyanotype on fabric, 33 x 27 x 7 cm



*Mer fermée*, 2019, cyanotype on fabric, 33 x 27 x 7 cm



*Mer fermée*, 2019, cyanotype on fabric, 33 x 27 x 7 cm

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Open from Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 6pm

Carré d'Art–Musée d'art contemporain

2<sup>nd</sup> floor

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### Admission

Admission to Permanent Collection + Project Room: Full fee: 5 €; Reduced fee\*: 3 €

1st Sunday of the month: Free admission to Permanent Collection + Project Room

\* Reduced fee: applies to groups of over twenty people, those seeking employment, and students (upon presentation of official proof), members of Friends of the Museum associations in the Provence/Midi region.

FREE OF CHARGE (upon presentation of official proof): <https://www.carreartmusee.com/en/pratical-info/>

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### Centre de documentation en art contemporain (Contemporary Art Archive), level -1

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