

villa5 association - women's art and activism

villa5 is a big house that has been reclaimed in the area of one of the biggest "lunatic asylums" of Italy, in Collegno, a town in the metropolitan area of Turin. Nowadays this area is a 40 hectare public park.

So villa5 is the name of the association's women arts and activism and also the name of the big house. A place run by non-profit women entities and by women from different countries: a big *hammam*; a children's space and self help for parents; a Women Center to welcome and care women in difficulties; a social counseling of Not-Traditional Medicines; a bio/cultural restaurant its name is *asylum*; a residence with 10 small flats, a big conference and stage room, a big garden inside.

villa5 is a place in which art is crossing, it isn't only devoted to art, but granting a privilege. Inside this house/project of social and cultural economy by women, born villa5 association – women's arts and activism.

villa5 Association - multidisciplinary residence for women's art - wish to promote an artistic international community of women in action, critics and responsible, and wish to show up art of women. How it makes, is supporting creative actions linking different experiences, creating communicating languages, trying new possibilities of cultural change, making changes through creative acts; actions in which art goes over "discipline", to experiment languages connections and to create nets. For villa5 association, multiculturalism and defence of cultural bio-difference –and also environmental conditions- are at the top of a good and fair development system.

villa5 association articulates its action primarily through APPRODI project. It starting from a feminist criticism to reality, wants to highlight and connect those experiences not only artistic and creative in which women are more responsible, those experiences that create new horizons for cultural and political change. Strongly multidisciplinary experiences to meet and exchange knowledge, to feed the knowledge desire, to raise awareness, to transform through creative acts, to recognize the art beyond the picket fence of "discipline".

APPRODI is

- ✓ a permanent construction site between women artists from different countries and backgrounds, art critics, academics, cultural workers living art as taking individual responsibility, which poses questions to himself and to the public in a dialogue
- ✓ a space of production: through dialogue between artistic languages to enter in other territories than own, it is a mixed space where contaminate the codes, exchange roles, to go beyond the individual creative space toward a performative collective communication.
- ✓ a program of shows, performances, exhibitions, screenings, seminars and meetings, all by women

Each edition of APPRODI is crossed by a theme. Over the years (since 2006) we have worked about memory, transformation process, responsibility, activism, participation, conflicts, borders...