

*Edition in partnership with The House 22 - Geneva*



## Geneva Buzz'art Multidisciplinary art festival

### Tribute to the artist Franco Pedone, retrospective

**For its 2nd edition, from June 8 to 11, 2023, the Geneva Buzz'art Festival paid tribute to the artist Franco Pedone, who left us a year ago. Related to the artist's work and the end of his life, the festival focused on the antinomic, yet complementary duality of light and shadow, body and spirit, suffering and hope.**

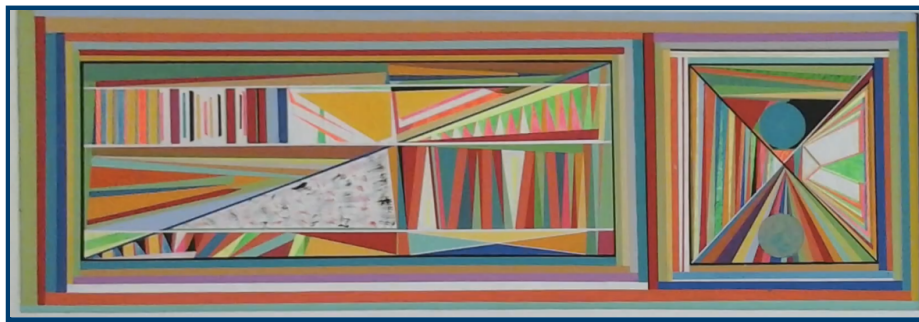
Leonardo da Vinci's (1452-1519) "chiaroscuro" pictorial technique might be the very principle every artist uses to restore a balance between two extremes, shaping with light and shadow, until the idea, the concept, the sketch, the painting, finally the sculpture, come to life, move and be moved. Art expresses, art heals, and if it fails to cure the body, it certainly mends the wounds of the mind. In this context, some 40 speakers - artists, therapists, scientists, heads of the ESCA Cancer Support Association and the Tara House - deployed their skills brilliantly and interacted sensitively with the audience. The event was a resounding success, thanks to the remarkable work of its organisers Nadia Tanzi and Sandra Massariol (founder of The House 22 association), as well as numerous volunteers and friends who mingled with the attendees.

### Impressions

**By Celina Orli Kosinski**

Geneva industrial zone, 5pm. I'm taken to a place I know but not really know, I climb a truck unloading pontoon, thinking that maybe I should back out of this hostile factory entrance. Too late, a boxer-like dancer greets me with open arms on a red-carpeted aisle. I don't know him, but his aerodynamic strength anchors a point of no return beneath my steps. We exchange a few words on Geneva, Zurich, London, New York. I pass through the metal doorframe of an architect's open-space studio. An airport terminal atmosphere ascends from this *non-geographical* capsule.

Camera operator, photographer, lighting technician, sound technician, *buzz* between the slender artists hanging their latest works on the walls. Take-off in a few minutes. I feel emanating from the place a peaceful ripple that is rarely experienced at a collective event.



*Day and Night,*  
Franco Pedone RAN, 2017

Dancers warm up before their performance, musicians rehearse a few complex notes backstage. Plasticians, actors, therapists, line up in silence. Breathe in. Breathe out. 3, 2, 1, ON AIR. The show opens. A screen rolls down from above, Franco Pedone appears. His sunrise smile spreads across the room. He recounts his career as an artist, his works in strong, personalised colours, nerves of life woven along his creative inspiration, a legacy to posterity.

We hold our breath, we no longer hold our tears. Franco Pedone is with us. Black screen. His being is still there, in front of each of his works of art, all around us. He's here, he's been here throughout the festival, and he'll be here, still. Singers curl up into the grooves of ambient waves, actors carry us away to our unfathomable depths. Life, death, hope. We are no longer in an amorphous virtual space, robotised by predictive algorithms that turn us into androids with no heartbeat. Here, we are free, liberated from machines, reconnecting with our humanity. We listen to each other's breathing and the vital vibrations of our bodies, astonished that our fingers, no longer tapping touch screens, are made of flesh.

The audience is one. Those who know each other forget their disagreements; those who don't know each other talk, look at each other, share their life stories. We laugh, we cry, we all dance together. Some, it is said, have even found their soulmate. The invisible one in dehumanised cities imprisoning livid, exhausted pedestrians, tapping the pavement in cadence like automats, drowned out by insipid advertising slogans, parallel universes devoid of substance, aseptic shopping halls walled up in their glass cages. Feelings, friendship and love, sources of healing, have blossomed in the silky chrysalis of Buzz'art in Geneva. We are renewed, our bodies more alert, our spirits higher, our hearts a little more purified of their stony residues. We don't leave as we entered.

### **Buzz'art - Multidisciplinary Art Festival**

**Next Buzz'art event: Autumn 2023 in Zurich | Information: [info@thehouse22.org](mailto:info@thehouse22.org)**



**Franco Pedone, alias RAN “régénérateur actif naturel”** (“natural active regenerator”) was a Swiss and Italian artist who lived in Carouge. He began painting in 2012, following his fascination with ultramarine blue, then developed a passion for assembling objects. He arranged heterogeneous material to captivate his sensibility and decomposed reality into acidulous geometric forms, creating a living pictorial wonder.

*Painting could save someone's life.*

*Before it, my life had no meaning.*

Franco Pedone