



## THROUGH ME ONE GOES INTO THE TOWN OF WOE

2021 marks the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the poet and writer Dante Alighieri. For this occasion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic promotes multiple initiatives through the network of Embassies and Consulates around the world. The Divine Comedy is the famous allegorical poem written by Dante Alighieri in the first twenty years of the XIV century and is one of the great masterpieces of world literature. Dante's imaginary journey into the three otherworldly realms of Hell, Purgatory and Paradise has inspired artists of all generations, from Giotto to the present day. In particular, Hell - in the wake of the descriptions of Dante's verses - has generated rich works of extraordinary figurative creation. The short journey through images of this installation evokes the most famous moments of Hell in four sequences, in particular those that oscillate between the grotesque, erotic allusion and surreal invention.

The opening images show a livid Venetian lagoon with the bell tower of the Church of Santa Maria Assunta on the horizon, inside which dominates a large mosaic with images of the souls of the damned who, naked and dismayed, roam the banks of the infernal river Acheron, waiting to be ferried by the demon Charon.

The second sequence presents images taken mostly from medieval miniatures, not only of Italian origin, which show how the main punishment of suffering in eternal fire had been part of the collective imagination for some centuries before Dante.

The third sequence is inspired by the dark and surreal forest of suicides, those who have exercised violence against themselves and who have been transformed into withered trees that generate moans and blood when their branches are broken even inadvertently.

The fourth iconic figure of Hell is that of the terrible three-headed demon Lucifer with which he devours the damned. Almost all painters between the Middle Age and the Renaissance wanted to represent this figure, which is probably the one that most evoked Hell in the collective imagination of entire generations. And it is no coincidence that perhaps Lucifer is the last infernal creature that Dante and Virgil leave behind before "seeing the stars".

To recall Dante's verses in sync with the images, the first complete English translation of 1918 was used:

*The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri*  
Translation in English Blank Verse, by Courtney Langdon  
Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1918

#Dante700nelMondo



**THROUGH ME ONE GOES INTO THE TOWN OF WOE**

Project by Change Performing Arts

Soundtrack by Lamberto Curtoni

I.

**THROUGH ME AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT ARE LOST**

*Inferno, Canto III*

Visual by Luciano Romano

Choreography by Luna Cenere

Dancers of Compagnia Korper

Courtesy of Parco Archeologico Campi Flegrei

II.

**WITH GENTLE FALL DILATED FLAKES OF FIRE**

*Inferno, Canto XIV*

Visual by Collettivo AF \ ArteFactory

Alessandro Anglani, Marta Dellabona,

Lorenzo De Marziani, Martina Galbiati, Michele Innocente

with Elisa Cavallo

III.

**MEN WERE WE ONCE, AND NOW ARE STOCKS BECOME**

*Inferno, Canto XIII*

Visual by Peter Bottazzi and Silvia Rigon

IV.

**THE EMPEROR OF THE REALM OF WOE**

*Inferno, Canto XXXIV*

Visual by Collettivo AF \ ArteFactory

Alessandro Anglani, Marta Dellabona,

Lorenzo De Marziani, Martina Galbiati, Michele Innocente

with Elisa Cavallo.