PARANÁ STUDIO

JAN KATH

PARANÁ STUDIO PRESENTS

IN COLLABORATION WITH
JAN KATH

LA PORTA MAGICA

SHOWING AT
ALBERTO LEVI GALLERY

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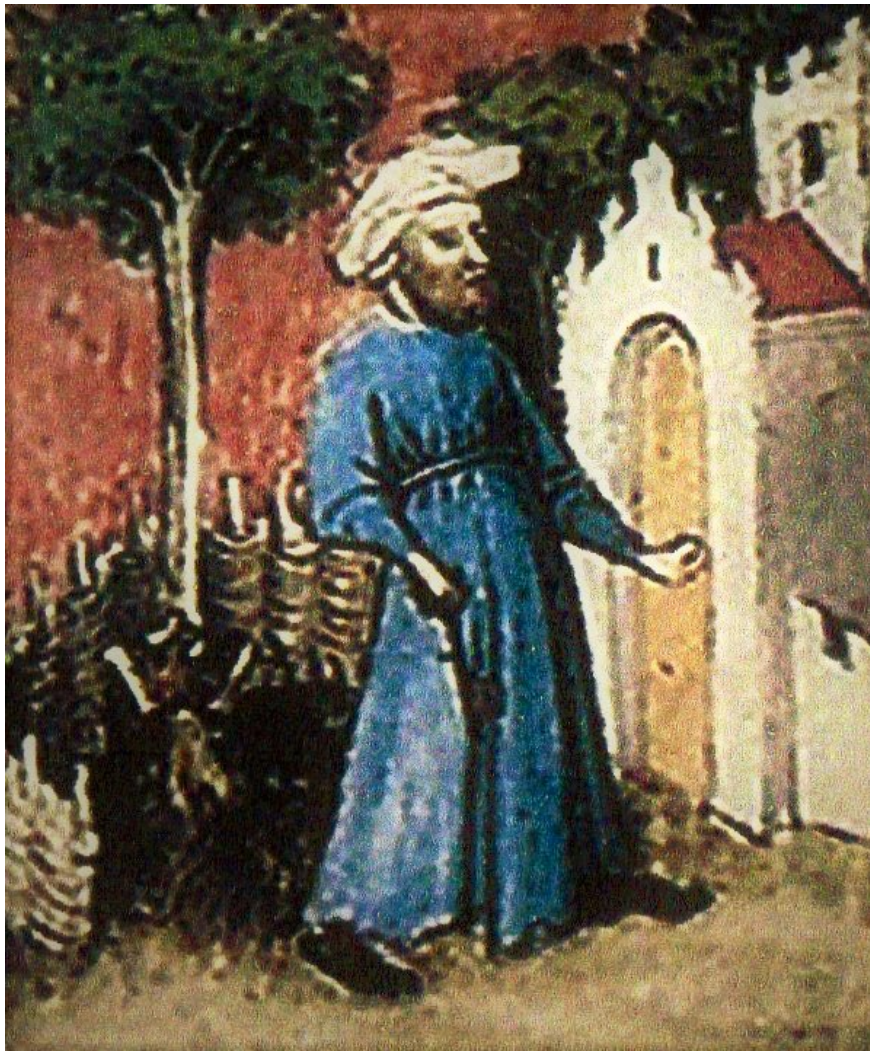
In ancient Greece, alchemy is the chemistry that casts, that blends. According to the Egyptians, the magicians of the ancient world, it is the black earth under our feet, whilst to the East it is the lymph that gives life to gold. We could wonder which one of these beliefs comes closest to reality, but the truth is that it doesn't matter. What matters are the common goals that drive those who chose to approach this occult philosophy.

Alchemy is chemistry, physics, astrology, metallurgy and medicine. Alchemy is transformation, it is lead that becomes gold, it is negative that becomes positive. Alchemy is an experience of growth, liberation, salvation. Alchemy is past, present and future wisdom. Alchemy is a philosopher's stone that heals all corruption.

In the 15th century, immersed in an esoteric Rome, the poet, intellectual and dreamer, Massimiliano Savelli Palombara, Marquis of Pietraforte, commissioned the construction of a magical door.

The door, positioned on the surrounding walls of his villa in the Esquiline, had the ability to be crossed only by those who could decipher the symbolism that adorned its friezes. A great friend of Christina of Sweden, a frequent visitor of the cultural salons of Palazzo Riario, Palombara was an alchemist in search of the Universal Panacea, the elixir of life. His thirst for knowledge led him to meet the greatest intellectuals of his time.



He made this philosophy his lifelong mission, dedicating himself to various studies in his secret laboratory in Villa Palombara. The legend recounts of the arrival of a special guest. A pilgrim who stayed only for one day.

During the night the pilgrim entered the flourishing gardens of the Villa. He was looking for a mysterious herb capable of transforming into gold. The next morning he was nowhere to be found, disappeared forever through the door, leaving behind only fine gold flakes, the eternal symbol of the successful alchemical transformation, of the secret of the philosopher's stone.

At the foot of the door a parchment filled with riddles and magical symbols. In vain the Marquis tried to decipher its secrets. Then, he decided to make the text public by engraving it on the five doors of the Villa, in the hope that one day someone would be able to decipher it ...

After the annexation of Rome to the newly born Regno d'Italia in 1870, the Villa was expropriated and destroyed to make way to the construction of the new Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II. The magical door survived, presumably saved by its aura of mystery and the legendary curiosities it inspired. It was rebuilt and placed in the garden of the Piazza. To this day, the magical door, the alchemical door, the door of heaven, remains a mystery that lives undisturbed in Piazza Vittorio, waiting to be deciphered.

The sentence that secretly holds the magical formula is:

FILIUS NOSTER

MORTVVS VIVIT

REX AB IGNE REDIT

ET CONIVGIO GAVDET OCCVULTO

Perhaps there is an alchemist amongst you ....

Perhaps there is a pilgrim amongst you ...

Perhaps someone amongst you will be able to cross the magical door leaving behind gold flakes...

Perhaps amongst you there are those who have discovered the elixir of life...