

Utopia

An ubiquitous innterconnective dictionary for contemporary utopias. The space for desires and meanings, built by communities

Utopia is a Greek pun on 'ou-topos' [no place], 'eu-topos' [good place], coined by Thomas More to describe an imaginary island ruled by a perfectly regulated law and social system, where communal ownership supplants private property, men and women are educated alike, and there is almost complete religious toleration.

The homonymous novel was published in 1516 under Erasmus's editorship, with the title "*Libellus vere aureus, nec minus salutaris quam festivus, de optimo rei publicae statu deque nova insula Utopia*". Although created with the best intention, the perfect and balanced world of Utopia has a main concern: it can't exist because it can't have a "place".

What happens if, 500 hundred years after the publication of More's novel, we play again with language, and we bar the "U"?

This simple action shows us an opportunity: suddenly the "place" is back.

Even more: thousand, hundreds of thousands places (and their utopias) can exist. Places which rise from words, from the multiplication of words: the collective and connective creation of a dictionary to imagine and multiply possible futures. by creating words, using and performing them together to create their meanings.

The word creates the place. By creating the word we make the place exists. By using it together we create the meaning.

<< Utopia becomes Utopia: the space for desires and meanings, built by communities >>

The utopia dictionary will emerge from places and times.

It is **an ubiquitous platform for people expression**, which interconnects them according to their wishes, visions, expectations, as they emerges from different territories and contexts

It is **a dissemination process**: among schools, citizens, artists, institutions which will collaborate to the creation of the dictionary.

And it is **a new interconnective ritual**, allowing people to converge and making alive the performance of the recovered utopias, which finally have a place.

The ritual will take place in Matera during the MateRadio event (23th-25th September 2016): before the event, a series of workshops involving schools, artisans, artists and musicians will conceptualize and realize the elements of the ritual and perform it together with the city of Matera.