

**Ēastre Weekend: Experiences of Transition, Resistance, Community, Celebration & Love at
Timespan, Helmsdale**

A weekend celebration of the release of Lina Pallotta's first photography book featuring Italian trans activist and writer Porpora Marcasciano accompanied by talks, performances, and live music

Timespan, Helmsdale: On April 8th-9th Timespan will host the Ēastre Weekend to celebrate the release of 'Lina Pallotta- Porpora,' Italian photographer Lina Pallotta's first photography book featuring trans activist and writer Porpora Marcasciano. Over the course of the weekend talks, performances, a DJ set and communal lunches will explore experiences of transition, resistance, community, joy and love. Ēastre is the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess of dawn, spring, fertility, rebirth and storms: a figure apt to embrace the themes of this weekend.

Porpora Marcasciano commented *I look forward to taking part to see a collective dimension, where we can share, exchange, and speculate. Where art meets politics, philosophy, and personal experiences. I see it as a moment where we can take stock of the situation from many different points of view. I am thrilled to participate in the Ēastre Weekend because the collective coming together revitalizes my life and the photos that Lina took. I believe these moments are fundamental in giving us the occasion to discuss the here and now. The past should always be mended with the present because the past cannot be mummified. The past is our story, and there is no interruption.*



Roberta Lucrezia Porpora, Roma-1990©-Credits Lina Pallotta

The event will begin on Saturday April 8th at 15:00 with the book launch of 'Lina Pallotta- Porpora' chaired by publication curator Michele Bertolino, PhD researcher Sophie Sexon, Porpora Marcasciano and the artist Lina Pallotta.

It is a project that, without heaviness, has accompanied me since the early 90s. Commented Lina Pallotta on the meaning of her publication It certainly has a symbolic value linked to my close friendship with Porpora. But it also embodies my expectations and aims with respect to photography and my growth within the medium. Basically, it is an affirmation, a conclusion and an adhesion to life choices, and to the visual process.

Lina's publication is an important and fundamental restitution of my life, and of a collective path. Said Porpora Marcasciano about 'Lina Pallotta- Porpora' It is like she put together a necklace of precious pearls, each of which is a moment, a situation, an experience, a meeting, a person that has enriched a path that has become collective. Lina not simply portrays my life, she weaves plural relations, showing our way of seeing the world.

A Q&A session will follow with local author and Highland Pride member Roz White about trans right and the recent Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill: aimed at supporting individuals to change their legal gender. For dinner, on Saturday, a delicious southern Indian dinner prepared by Shirley Kobiela will be offered at the River Café from 18:30.

On Saturday evening, artist Sgàire Wood will perform her Sgàireoke: an amazing evening of music and performance welcoming all to join them in a fabulous Karaoke night. Following up a DJ sets from Memoirs of An Imperfect Angel & MS. NICEBOY will invite all participants to get lose on dance, garage, pop, house and disco tunes.

On Sunday 9th the programme continues with Dingwall-based author Roz White sharing her experience as a writer and reading excerpts from her trans-fiction novels.

"I think this event will be a wonderful occasion to bring people together from all sorts of backgrounds who may well find that they share common bonds of Highland life that they had no idea about previously" commented Roz.

Following, Porpora Marcasciano will be sharing for the first time excerpts from the video documentaries about her everyday life which she began shooting after receiving a camera as a gift in 1987. These videos include late-night meetings with her comrades and protests as well as intimate footage of her dressing up, dancing and singing capturing her body changing over time.



Tamara MacArthur Installation- Credits Tamara MacArthur

The weekend will come to an end with a celebratory Èastre Lunch immersed within the newly commissioned art installation by the Glasgow-based artist Tamara MacArthur. MacArthur for the occasion has devised an imaginative upside-down world where the blue sky and twinkling stars are transformed into a tablecloth, and where the mountains rise above the heads of café users, inviting the diners to come together, share food, and engage in conversations.

Book your tickets for the festival and the lunches via [Eventbrite](#) or at enquiries@timespan.org.uk

EDITOR'S NOTES

[High-resolution Images](#)

[Timespan](#) is a cultural organisation in Helmsdale (Scotland, UK) with local, global and planetary ambitions to utilise culture for social change following principles of equality, emancipation and inclusion. Comprising a local history museum, contemporary art programme, geology and herb gardens, shop, bakery and café; Timespan adopts a holistic and integrated approach to making art and heritage tools for global cultural and social change. The organisation is committed to diagnosing and responding to urgent contemporary issues, which are rooted in the local context of remote, rural Scotland, and approaching these from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

Porpora Marcasciano is the honorary president of MIT (Trans Identity Movements), activist, sociologist and writer. She sits in the city council of Bologna and she is president of the Equity Committee of the Comune di Bologna. Director of Divergenti International Festival of Trans Cinema. She researches and collects documentation and oral sources for the reconstruction of trans history. She has edited and participated in several video documentaries on trans issues. She has published with Manifestolibri *Tra le rose e le viole* (2002), *Elementi di critica trans* (2010) and with Alegre *Antologaiia* (2016), *L'aurora delle trans cattive* (2018), *Tra le rose e le viole* (2020). Numerous documentary videos capture her speeches and interviews.

Lina Pallotta is a photographer born in San Salvatore Telesino (BN), she moved to New York in the late 1980s, where she graduated in "Photojournalism and Documentary Photography" at the International Center of Photography (ICP). Her long-term projects focus on subjects with a personal approach, on the everyday in marginalized situations, or on women's issues and gender identity. Her works have been shown in solo and group exhibitions in the EU and US, and published in national and international magazines.

Michele Bertolino is a curator and researcher living between Turin and Rome. He currently collaborates with Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo as coordinator of the Young Curators Residency Program. He edited the publication *Porpora* – a photographic book of Lina Pallotta's work. He curated exhibitions in several institutions, among those: MAMbo, Bologna; Last Tango, Zurich; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino. In 2020 he was visiting lecturer in the LAB.ZONE PETROLIO, class led by Lili Reynaud-Dewar at HEAD Genève. Between 2019 and 2021 he worked as assistant curator of the 2020 Art Quadriennale FUORI, held at Palazzo delle Esposizioni. In 2016 he founded with Bernardo Follini, Giulia Gregnanin and Sebastiano Pala, the curatorial collective Il Colorificio. In 2022 he published *Albe e tramonti in Praiano**, written together with Giulia Crispiani. His writings have been published in Nero Magazine, Flash Art and other magazines.

Roz White is a Trans Woman now in her 60s and living in Highland. Her "Sisterhood" novels are available through Amazon and now number 13 in total, with another due out this

coming November. "I started writing them when I could find no fiction involving trans people that wasn't porn," she says; nearly ten years later, these true-to-life dramas have garnered praise and enthusiasm from readers all around the world. She is also active within her Trade Union and Highland Pride, and can often be bumped into as she goes about her daily life around Dingwall and Inverness.

Tamara MacArthur (1994, they/them) is a British visual artist working across installation, performance, drawing and video. They are currently based in Glasgow, where they completed a BA Hons in *Fine Art* at *Glasgow School of Art*, 2017. Tamara's work explores longing, futility and the boundaries of intimacy.

The installations are constructed to be warm and beguiling with a nostalgic air that alludes to familiar old songs and stories. These glittering paper homes play host to a moment of emotional intimacy Tamara attempts to generate between the viewer and themselves. The constructions are their *best* effort; everything laboriously hand-made and embellished - no effort spared. But the obvious attempts to impress tip into almost comic excess. The sets are forward-facing: the sculptures revealed as flat-backed reliefs and the "glittering silver" is kitchen foil - fragile façades... paper-thin. They rely on the audience-participant to suspend disbelief, because '*it wouldn't be make-believe if you believed in me*'.

Press Office Timespan
Sofia Cotrona
sofia@timespan.org.uk
+44 07444416814