

Benedetta Tagliabue presents *I profili delle Anguane* at Arte Sella

“I profili delle Anguane”, by Benedetta Tagliabue – EMBT Architects, draws on the mountains and paths of Val di Sella to create two sculptural elements in painted local stone and coloured metal.



Concept collage © EMBT Architects

Benedetta Tagliabue – EMBT Architects presents “I profili delle Anguane”, a new installation at Arte Sella, opening on 24 October 2026. Situated along the Malga Costa route in Val di Sella, the work brings the profiles of two local mountains, Cima XII and Monte Fravort, closer to visitors, inviting them to encounter the surrounding landscape at a different scale.

The installation comprises two sculptural elements, each formed through the interplay of two lines: the outer silhouette of a mountain and the path that leads from the valley to its summit. Translated into painted local stone and coloured metal, these familiar contours become places to approach, walk around and sit beside.

From mountain profiles to sculptural forms

The project began with drawings and small models. Experiments with different materials explored the relationship between solid, carved profiles and lighter, interwoven structures. Local craftspeople then translated these studies into the full-scale stone and metal elements.

“I have always been fascinated by mountains... by their ability to be part of a whole while also having an individuality of their own, recognisable and capable of creating stories in our minds,” writes Benedetta Tagliabue.

At Arte Sella, this fascination becomes a collective endeavour to bring the mountains seen on the valley's horizon into closer contact with those passing through it. The resulting forms retain the memory of their origins while acquiring an identity of their own, allowing the surrounding landscape to find a new expression in the built forms.

Stone, metal and the colours of the valley

Carved from local stone, the bases anchor the installation to the valley's geology. Above them rises a forest of slender metal blades in warm, muted autumn colours. The Cima XII volume combines brown, lagoon green and Mediterranean blue; Monte Fravort brings together gold, antique red and myrtle green. These distinct palettes animate the structures, absorbing and reflecting the surrounding landscape's colours.

The contrast between heavy stone and light metal gives the work its character: grounded yet reaching towards the sky. Colour extends to the stone bases, inspired by paintings by local artists and the shades of the woods and mountains.

At the valley's highest point along the Malga Costa route, the two elements frame views of the landscape. Visitors can pause, sit on the remaining stone pieces and find shelter between the two sculptural presences. The space invites individual contemplation and shared moments, and can serve as a small open-air auditorium for groups to gather within the landscape.





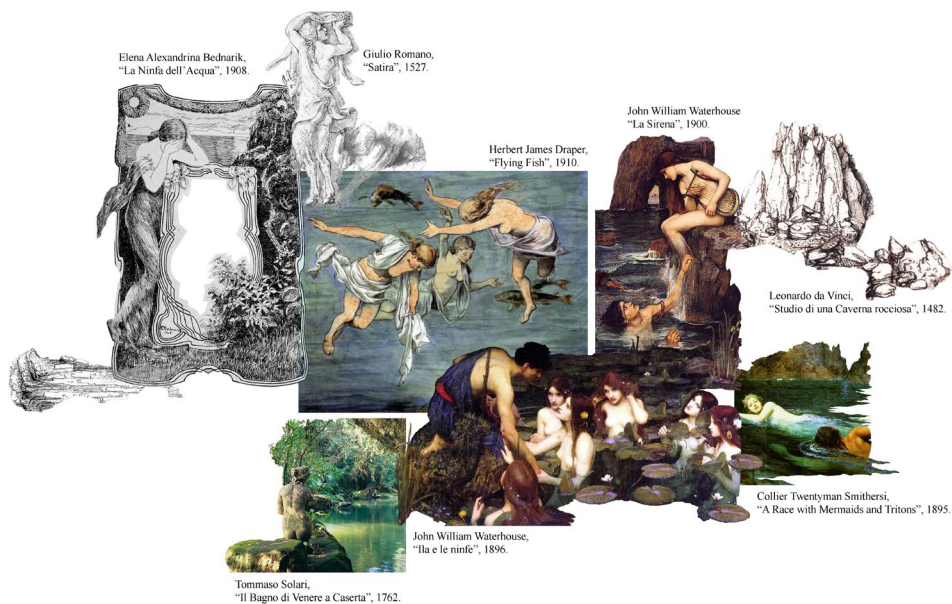
Design proposal © EMBT Architects

The Anguane and the imagination of the mountains

The title refers to the anguane, mythological figures associated with the traditions of the Veneto and Valsugana. Often linked to caves, springs and mountain environments, these elusive beings inhabit the threshold between the familiar landscape and the imagination.

Benedetta Tagliabue wonders whether the two new presences might themselves be anguane: the strange creatures, sometimes benevolent and sometimes malevolent, said to inhabit the mountains.

Through this association, “I profili delle Anguane” brings together the physical contours of the valley and the stories that inhabit it. Architecture, sculpture and landscape meet in an invitation to look again at the surrounding mountains, discovering new relationships through proximity, movement and contemplation.



Mythological references and visual inspiration collage © EMBT Architects



About Benedetta Tagliabue and EMBT Architects

Founded in Barcelona in 1994 by Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue, EMBT Architects has been led by Benedetta Tagliabue since Enric Miralles' passing in 2000. The studio's work brings together architecture and landscape through an approach shaped by contextual sensitivity, experimentation and a strong poetic and social dimension.

Its projects include the Scottish Parliament Building, the Spanish Pavilion at Expo Shanghai 2010, the renovation of Santa Caterina Market in Barcelona, and the San Giacomo Apostolo Church and Parish Complex in Ferrara. The studio's recent work includes the Centro Direzionale metro station in Naples, the Parco del Mare waterfront redevelopment in Rimini. These projects reflect a shared interest in connecting architecture, public space and local identity, creating places that support community life.

About Arte Sella

Established in 1986 in Val di Sella, near Borgo Valsugana in Trentino, Italy, Arte Sella brings contemporary art into dialogue with the natural landscape. Its open-air exhibition routes invite artists to develop works through a close engagement with the valley, its environment and its cultural identity. Nature plays an active role, transforming the works over time.

Alongside visual art, Arte Sella embraces architecture, design, music and dance. Its architecture programme includes works by Kengo Kuma, Eduardo Souto de Moura, Michele De Lucchi, Atsushi Kitagawara, Ian Ritchie and Stefano Boeri, exploring how people inhabit and relate to a changing landscape.

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Benedetta Tagliabue – EMBT Architects

Client: Associazione Arte Sella – Impresa Sociale

Site: Malga Costa, Val di Sella, Borgo Valsugana (TN)

Surface: 40 mq

Date: 14 September 2024_First visit
May 2025_Project Start
24 October 2026_Opening

Principal Architect: Benedetta Tagliabue (EMBT Architects)

Project Director: Valentina Noris (EMBT Architects)

EMBT Architects Team: Design Team: Giulia Pinato, Marco Barani, Leah Li, Giulia Martinelli
Model Makers: Gabriele Rotelli, Hitoshi Takahashi

Producer: Pedretti Graniti, Zintek, Revolti, Calchèra San Giorgio

Technical and Scientific Advisors: Marco Imperadori (Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento ABC), Grazia Marrone (Politecnico di Milano - Dipartimento ABC)

Construction credits: Daniele Pedretti (Pedretti Graniti), Gianni Schiavon (Zintek), Francesco Revolti (Revolti), Gianni Nerobutto (Calchèra San Giorgio), Anna Stefani (Calchèra San Giorgio), Luigi D'Anna (Paintings for Calchèra San Giorgio)

Installation Direction: Floriano Tomio (Artesella)

Communication: Rosa Zambelli (Artesella), Mariana Pimenta (EMBT Architects)

Photos: Giacomo Bianchi (Artesella)