

ABA INTERNATIONAL LECTURE SERIES
VIA DI RIPETTA, 222 - AULA COLLEONI
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“S.AGE” – Dionysiac Creativity in the Age of Decadence
PAULO LUCAS VON VACANO, DRAGO

At the dawn of a new millennium, we hope, after the events of Charlie Hebdo, that Dionysiac creativity wins on Apollonian thought. Our world is expressed through the “S”. We currently live in the age of “S.AGE”: “S” as system-street-style.

“S” as cultural independent zone system. In this lecture Paulo Lucas von Vacano will tell how, in the decadence produced by a neo-oligarchic feudal system and a criminal caste, the future lurks among us.

Paulo Lucas von Vacano, German by birth but Roman by adoption, sees in Rome one of the world’s most important beacons, and brands. This love for the Eternal City constantly generates new and multi-faceted activities enacted by DRAGO, a capital international observatory for urban and contemporary art.

Founded by Paulo Lucas von Vacano in 2002 DRAGO is a publishing house, a think tank, a cultural communication and art consulting company and, above all else perhaps, a generator of cultural occasions and energies. All DRAGO events are conceived as platforms to offer the public new, spectacular exhibitions, especially in Rome, to command international attention to the Eternal City’s often neglected cultural venues or undervalued contemporary creativity. DRAGO’s breathtaking storm of events, exhibitions and publications are visible at www.dragolab.com.

Paulo Lucas von Vacano, with DRAGO, is in ceaseless contact with artists, galleries and personalities the world over. His life is a relentless whirlwind of events, tours, promotions, happenings, book and art fairs and exhibitions.

DRAGO’s current exhibition, *Obey*, on view at the Naples’ Palace of Fine Arts (PAN), is the first major Italian show of the work of Shepard Fairey. Undoubtedly the best-known contemporary street artist, Shepard Fairey was propelled to fame following his portrait of Obama, *Hope*.

Paulo Lucas von Vacano has been immersed in the urban and contemporary art scene for decades. As an Italo-German journalist, he contributed to a plethora of international magazines and newspapers. He served as president of the Castelvechi Publishing Company, where he produced no less than 500 books and several magazines, among which Toni Negri’s *Posse* and *Aspenia Magazine* (of The Aspen Institute).

He has curated numerous exhibitions, forging and advancing the concept that every book or catalogue is a cultural platform that, in his own words, “penetrates the amniotic sac of globalization.” Notably, he curated *Angel of Decay*, Ed Templeton’s solo show at the Acquario Romano/Palazzo delle Esposizioni (Rome) and *Via Crucis*, of works by the photographer Andrès Serrano at the deconsecrated church of St. Marta (Rome). His was the biggest European exhibition about the Kennedys: *Kennedy. The Family, the Values, the History*, Temple of Adrian, Piazza di Pietra (Rome).

Further, as the official publisher of the French Academy in Rome, the Villa Medici, DRAGO is in charge of all its publications for exhibitions and artists-in-residence.

Since 2014 Paulo Lucas von Vacano is a share-holder of the Audaces Foundation, an international non-profit organization that provides educational platforms and on-site interventions to provide innovative solutions to global societal and environmental challenges.