



PROTECTED AREA. Dritto al cuore della Guerra - Straight to the Heart of War

A project conceived and curated by **Mili Romano**

In collaboration with **Coxo Spaziale** and **Radio Città Fujiko (Bologna, IT)**

Original audio editing by **Davide Paradisi**

**18-06-2026 Neon Gallery, via San Donato
24/b, Bologna (Italy)**

18.00-22.00

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Voices and sounds from:

Anna Troisi – London, Chiara Casoni, Donatella Franchi, Elena Gabuzzini, Enzo Mancuso, Etta Polico, Lucia Zanardi, Rebecca Dall’Olio, Rosanna Andreozzi, Thierry Weyd from Caen, Martina Roberts, Silvana Turci, Francesco Re Li Calzi from Catania, Antonia Trasforini, Danila D’Amico, the fourth-year students of Liceo Scientifico Orsa Maggiore, Angelo Antonio Fierro, Uliana Zanetti with Abumase, Ethiopian, Dario, German, Flor, Argentinian Spanish, Jean, French, Margarita, Bulgarian, Mariliis, Estonian, Mili, Russian, Muriel, Portuguese, Norma, Dutch, Piero, French, Philippa, English, Shirin, Farsi, Rity, Chinese, Russom, Tigrinya, Yumi, Japanese, Yussef, Arabic and Tunisian, Uliana, Italian, Donatella Lombardo, Ornella Fazzina and the students Alejandra Canquiz, Clelia Guastella and Mattia Di Pasqua, from the Communication and Valorisation of Artistic Heritage course at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Catania, Mona Lisa Tina, Elisa Muliere, Antonello Ghezzi, Cialla, Emanuela Rambaldi, Silvia Marchesini and the children of Class III E at the “L. A. Muratori” Primary School in San Felice sul Panaro, Carla Massa, Clara Contento, Daniela Spagna Musso, Eleonora Santi from The Hague, Monica Saccomandi from Turin, Marco Mensa and Elisa Mereghetti, Gianguido Palumbo from Rome, Giorgia Benedetta Soncin, Andreina Cavazza, Giancarlo Norese, Traudel Sattler from Milan, Giulia Bonora, Sonia Lenzi, Franco Lanzarini, Michelangelo Mazzanti, Stefano W. Pasquini with Bianca Sofia Schroeder, Adriana Torregrossa, Celide Masini, Lucia Lamberti, Rita Correddu, Marta Rocca, Francesco Tutino, Dany Mitzman, Benvenuto Chiari, Chiara Pergola with Daniela Spagna Musso, Amelia Foti, Angela Tragni and Stefano W. Pasquini, and Nando Briamonte.



Protected Area is an ongoing public art and sound project conceived and curated by Mili Romano, an established Italian artist, curator and researcher whose practice spans more than four decades of site-specific urban interventions, public art projects, institutional collaborations and academic work. Romano's practice has consistently explored the memory of places, the transformation of public and private space, and the relationship between art, urban experience and collective life.

Her latest project, Protected Area, began as **a participatory project with an open call on 9 March 2026** and has continued to grow through collaboration with Coxo Spaziale and Radio Città Fujiko (Bologna, IT). The original audio work, Protected Area, was first presented in early 2026 during the opening days of the new NEON gallery space in Bologna. Its starting point was an audio recording made by Mili Romano in 2001 in Providence, Rhode Island, while she was living in a historic house filled with Civil War memorabilia. After accidentally entering an area of the house that was off-limits and triggering the alarm, she recorded the siren and the warning phrase shouted by the police:

You have violated a protected area, the police were called. Leave immediately.

More than twenty years later, in response to the wars, abuses of power, deaths and violent invasions of sovereign territories that increasingly surround our lives, Romano returned to this recording and reactivated it as a political and poetic gesture. The work was born as a personal reaction to atrocities that risk turning us into passive, accustomed, indifferent and powerless spectators.

In February 2026, after its presentation at NEON, Romano proposed the audio to Stefano Pasquini and the editorial team of Coxo Spaziale on Radio Città Fujiko. She asked that it be broadcast repeatedly, anonymously, and without declared

authorship, as a small jolt or intermezzo between the music and conversations of the regular radio programme. The audio was first broadcast in this form on Monday 23 February.

From the broadcast of 9 March onwards, however, this solitary cry became a call for collective action. Romano invited anyone who wished to take part to donate one minute against war: a thought, a dream, a quotation, a piece of music, or a proposal for action. Each contribution was imagined as expanding outward, like the ripples of a stone thrown into a pond, in the hope of confronting indifference and blindness together. Participants were invited to send their audio files to Coxo Spaziale or to a dedicated number. Many voices, for one shared voice.

Following the call, many messages arrived. Each Monday, during the Coxo Spaziale programme, some of these interventions were inserted into the regular broadcast. On 5 April 2026, Easter Sunday, the first group of contributions was transmitted together. These voices were then gathered into a single sonic fabric, a polyphony of voices now available as a podcast on Radio Città Fujiko.

On 18 June, the composition Protected Area, now transformed into a sound carpet of many voices and a Radio Città Fujiko podcast, returns to Neon Gallery, via San Donato 24/b, from 18:00 to 22:00.

From this date, we would like our polyphony to continue growing, installed and shared in other spaces of culture and life. On these occasions, new voices may be added by sending a voice message to +39 334 3460891 or +39 338 5944122, or to coxospaziale@gmail.com.

