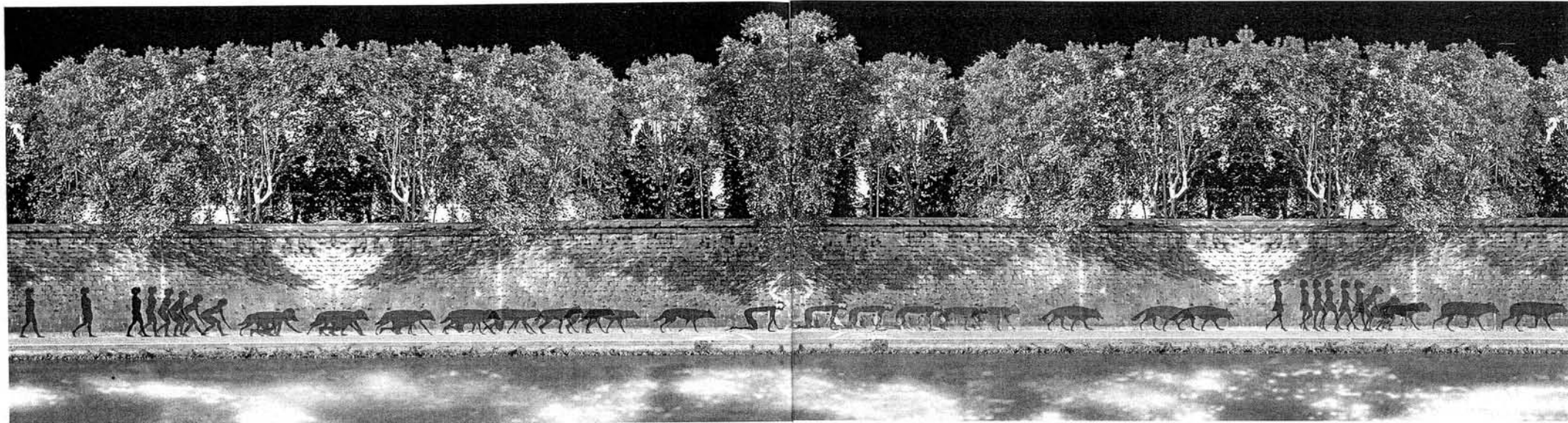


SOCIETY OF FELLOWS NEWS

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

TEVERETERNO and the Piazza Tevere

Kristin Jones FAAR'94



Kristin Jones FAAR'94 *She-Shadows / Lumin-Essence*, 2004. Image courtesy of Kristin Jones

A project to revitalize the Tiber River

A Roman theater is waiting to be discovered: The section of the Tiber River between Ponte Sisto and Ponte Mazzini is the only perfectly straight section of the Tiber, and surprisingly, is equal in dimension to the ancient Circus Maximus. TEVERETERNO, a river festival, will claim this site to present events inspired by the river and the mythology of the city of Rome. International teams of multidisciplinary artists, composers, writers, filmmakers, animators, and visual artists, as well as scientists and engineers, are collaborating on the production. Ultimately the goal is to establish a permanent river piazza where contemporary arts can flourish within the context of Rome's ancient history.

The subject is water and the role of nature in the urban environment. The Tiber River influenced the location, formation, and evolution of the city of Rome, marking the city's history again and again by devastating floods. The desire to control the rise and fall of these waters

resulted in the construction of massive high embankments that alienate the city from its very origins. For more than a century, the river has flowed isolated and apart from the city. "It may be abandoned, stripped of its glory, but the Tiber is still the thread that binds Rome to its source." (Michael Griffin, *The Mighty Organ*, October 2002).

The Festival

TEVERETERNO is a fusion of art and technology composed of three parts, each embodying elements of the river. The installation can be experienced from the sidewalks and bridges above, and from the walkways below, along the riverbanks.

The most dramatic element of the three, visible day and night, is *Lumin-Essence*; a serpentine constellation of light physically animated by the river's current, revealing the invisible energy of the river. At the same time, the sounds of water, of music, and of spoke narratives will

travel in synchrony with the river's current, a succession of Sonic Waves. After dark, a parade of transforming shadows (*She-Shadows*) will circulate around the high stone walls, a metamorphosis inspired by the mythological she-wolf that symbolizes the beginning of Roman civilization.

The Piazza Tevere and The City of Rome

In 1983, while on a Fulbright Fellowship to Rome, TEVERETERNO founder Kristin Jones, a New York / Rome based artist, was struck by a section of the Tiber River that she describes as "grand, with a sense of majesty and neglect." A decade later, as a Rome Prize winner, Jones envisioned a place - the Piazza Tevere - where contemporary artists of all disciplines could collaborate on staging spectacular events to draw Romans and visitors back to the Tiber. Jones returned to Rome in 2001 as a Senior Fulbright Fellow to work together with the City to actively plan and produce her vision, which is based on the belief that art can be a vehicle for urban renewal.

In July 2003, Jones presented her plan to the Mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, who confidently offered the City's support in realizing this shared vision, and confirmed that the success of the project is contingent upon international financial backing. Mayor Veltroni is a strong advocate for the revival of the Tiber River, and he is actively concerned with water issues in the world. The new Master Plan for Rome calls for the reintegration of the river into the life of the city. The most recent update for the Master Plan now incorporates the Piazza Tevere as the cornerstone for the revival of the river. This achievement, combined with enthusiastic support from a broad base of believers, makes the Piazza Tevere and Tevereterno inevitable.

Kristin Jones FAAR'94, Artistic Director
TEVERETERNO is a special project of *The Kitchen in New York City* and *Studio Associato Manta in Rome*.

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