

Open letter for

FONDAZIONE TEATRO VALLE BENE COMUNE

Chi ha paura di una nuova istituzione? [Who's afraid of a new institution?]

The *Fondazione Teatro Valle Bene Comune* (Teatro Valle Foundation for the Commons) represents a new model of governance for institutions based on both rigorous legal and cultural research. A model that has become a case study in Italy and the world, which can therefore not be trivially dismissed as an "illegal act". It is a *brave* proposal born from the experience of nearly three years of occupation, from the passion and the work of those who have written the statutes of the *Fondazione Teatro Valle Bene Comune* with the complicity of artists, scholars and citizens.

This is not a scheme to assign the Teatro Valle to the group of occupants (who in fact never asked for this in the first place), but to return the theatre to the city. The plan is not "to own the theatre", but to provide a serious and innovative model of governance that is open to the wider community and is based on a participatory system. The *Fondazione Teatro Valle Bene Comune* doesn't have any owners and it is animated by all those who want to take care of it through mechanisms and principles that ensure democracy, transparency and professionalism.

Within a dramatically static cultural system, the *Fondazione Teatro Valle Bene Comune* opens a possibility for change: a challenge that aims to revolutionize the system of the nomination of artistic directors through lobbistic logics; to provide authentic spaces of creativity; to reclaim the rights of art, entertainment and knowledge workers, to question and react against the top-down rules that stifle the arts.

It is a priority to decide if we are really interested to experience the process of the commons. Above all, the institutions and the policies they enact must decide if the commons are only a subject for empty slogans or an emerging model of really taking care of managing a cultural institution practiced by a community of citizens that can be outlined in new ways and new means of legitimate legal value.

Thousands of artists, citizens, workers, intellectuals have supported with conviction and generosity the occupation through these three years. Now is the time to accept the challenge. The time to create together another idea of society and culture.