

ELLEN'S CURIOSITIES

Temporary Exhibition

"I believe young people must have a chance to start and learn, even if the work, the production isn't remarkable. I feel very strongly that someday we will have to do more than just say "hello" to other people. There has to be a visceral understanding among men - not just greeting. So I try to use La MaMa as a pushcart to help push us in this direction"

- Ellen's Stewart

Ellen Stewart was, throughout her life, a catalyst for artistic and creative talent. Among these are great figures of contemporary theater, such as Dimitris Papaioannou, Tadeusz Kantor, Peter Brook, Andrei Serban, Jun Maeda, Diane Lane, Paul Foster, John Kelly, and many others. Not only performing artists but also visual artists like Jeffrey Isaac, Jim Moore, and many Italian artists who, over her 30 years of activity, crossed paths with La MaMa Umbria. The collection also includes many scenic elements from shows produced or hosted by La MaMa, such as masks, puppets, backdrops, and costumes.

The exhibited works do not follow a defined exhibition order, given their extreme heterogeneity. Instead, an attempt has been made to recreate, in a small part, the atmosphere perceived in the spaces of La MaMa Umbria - a *horror vacui* of works and objects of great cultural, artistic, and above all human charm.

Ellen Stewart's interest towards a universal language theater, transcending geography and specific culture, is evident in the great variety of elements adorning the former convent of Santa Maria Reggiana, particularly their internationality. It would be difficult to compile a list of all the parts of the world that coexist and relate to each other in this space that knows no boundaries.

La MaMa Umbria is people, places, dialogue, relationships, experimentation, freedom to make mistakes, syncretism, art, Humanity. The works hosted at the Cantiere Oberdan embody all of this, beyond their author, their shape, or their meaning.

- Tommaso Burger, HumidSquad