

# Social Soups



Project author or developer:  
**Rachela Abbate & Rebecca Ballestra**

Where:  
**IT / Italien / Genua**

Website:  
**[socialsoups.com/](https://socialsoups.com/)**

**Social Soups is a platform project for aesthetics of social practices with a certain regard for the social implication of food.**

English-Italian Version: Social Soups is a platform project for aesthetics of social activities with a certain regard for the social implication of food. Social Soups is a project by Rachela Abbate and Maria Rebecca Ballestra. Social Soups contains creative projects, events and artist residencies, which are arranged in editions including aspects of community life and the public realm.

The aim of the project is to open through art a space of social transformation focusing on the food as elementary component because through food can be realized strong and multi-sensorial relations with the audience and the territory. Beyond feeding our bodies, food enriches our minds and, becoming an instrument of artistic operations, is an agent through which the audience can make the acquaintance with cultural and traditional aspects as well as customs of other countries; in a district, in which multitudes of different cultures meet daily because of the migration context, the culinary encounter could be the key in creating bonds instead of conflicts. Social Soups intend to be an open and free participatory and disposable platform with which can be collaborate spontaneously. Therefore the project will invite artists in order to "prepare a social soup"; with artists who focus in their researches and artistic operations on food and formulate divers social, cultural, economical and political interpretations. By using food and through multiple techniques and expressions the artists deal with important subjects related to nutrition: from food as means of survival and dependencies to food as condition of social injustice and obsessions. Furthermore the artists create a strong relation with the audience which become actively part of the artistic operations. Public engagement is a core issue of Social Soups aiming to address artistic activities directly to the citizen as audience as well as active participant in order to increase awareness of social justice and foster critical regionalism. Social Soups collaborates with communities, institutions and associations. Please visit the website for more information.

Social Soups "una piattaforma per l'estetica delle pratiche sociali con una particolare attenzione alle implicazioni culturali del cibo. Il progetto nasce da un'idea di Rachela Abbate e Maria Rebecca Ballestra. Social Soups raccoglie progetti creativi, eventi e residenze d'artisti, divisi in edizioni annuali e includendo i vari aspetti della vita della comunità e dello spazio pubblico.

Il progetto desidera, infatti, aprire attraverso l'arte uno spazio di trasformazione sociale e si concentra sull'elemento cibo in grado di realizzare forti e multisensoriali relazioni con il fruitore e il territorio. Il cibo, oltre a nutrire i nostri corpi, arricchisce la mente e, diventando strumento di un'azione artistica, si rivela essere il mezzo tramite il quale lo spettatore può venire a conoscenza di aspetti culturali e tradizionali e di abitudini di altri paesi; in un quartiere, in cui una moltitudine di culture differenti si confronta quotidianamente, l'incontro culinario potrebbe essere la chiave per creare legami invece che conflitti.

Lo scopo di Social Soups "di realizzare una piattaforma aperta e di libera fruizione e utilizzo, in cui la collaborazione avvenga in modo spontaneo. Perci, attraverso la preparazione di una zuppa sociale il progetto ha l'obiettivo di invitare artisti che collocano al centro della propria ricerca il tema del cibo declinato in varie interpretazioni artistiche, sociali, culturali, economiche e politiche.

