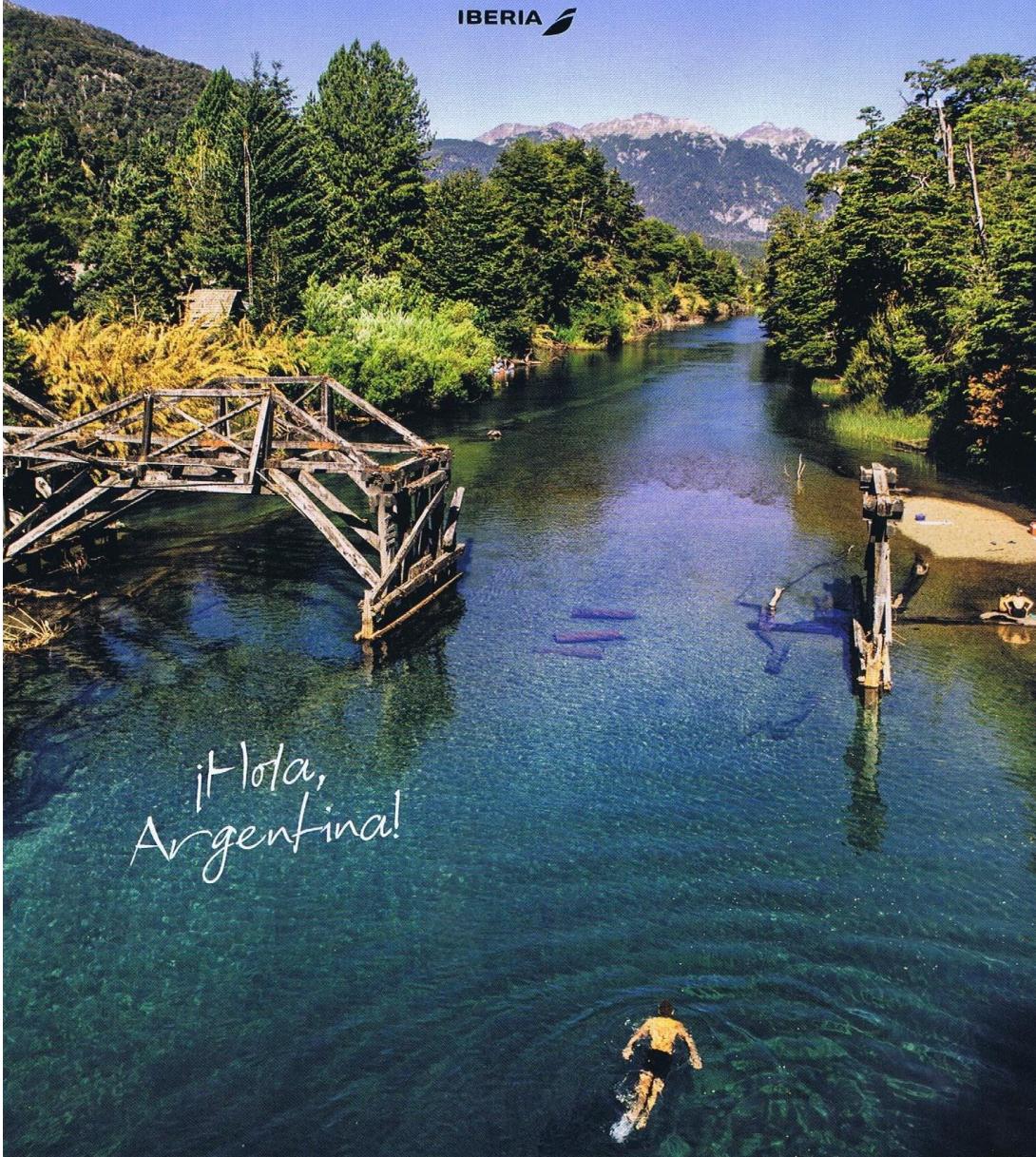


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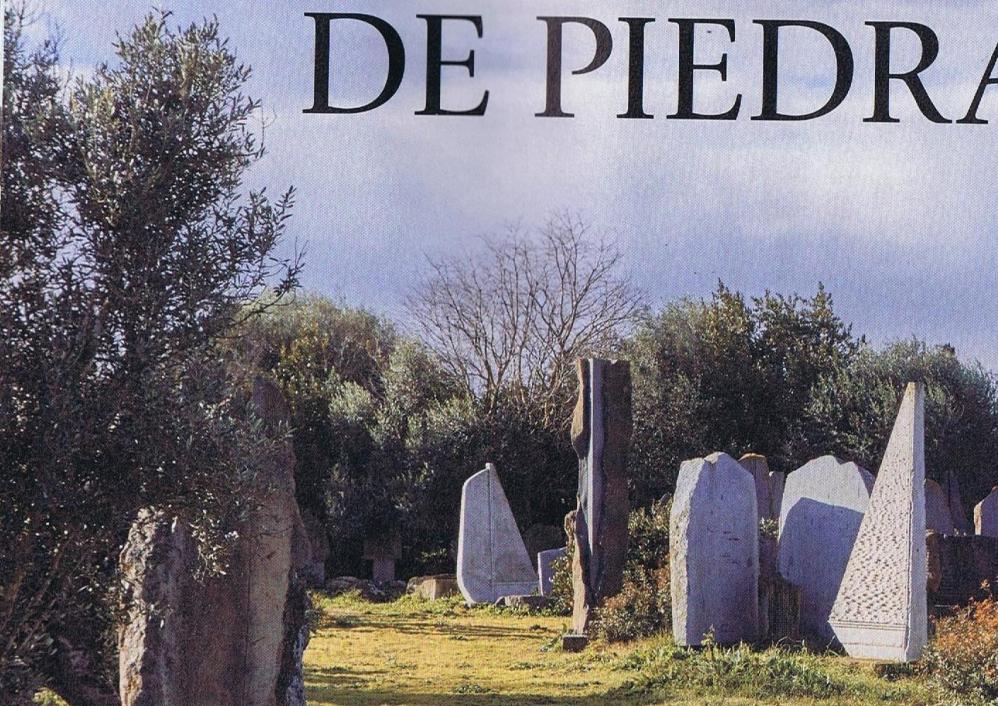
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# JARDINES DE PIEDRA



**ES** Cuenta la leyenda que, después de escupir el Moisés, y asombrado ante la perfección de su propia creación, Miguel Ángel le golpeó con un martillo gritando: 'Pero por qué no hablas?'. Pasaron casi cinco siglos hasta que un compatriota suyo, el sardo Pinuccio Sciola, obró el milagro que se le había resistido al genio renacentista: extraer voz de la materia. A mediados de los 90, Sciola – fallecido en 2016 –, comenzó a investigar la sonoridad de las piedras con las que realizaba sus esculturas. Y en su San Sperate natal –una ciudad de 8.000 habitantes a 20 kilómetros de Cagliari– les erigió un altar pagano, el Giardino Sonoro, que visitan unas 12.000 personas al año. Adentrarse en esta pradera salpicada de naranjos, y vagar entre sus más de 700 esculturas con incisiones talladas, es una experiencia poderosa. En vida, el >

**EN** Legend has it that after he sculpted Moses, Michelangelo was so amazed by his creation that he hit it with a hammer and shouted, "Why don't you talk?" It took five centuries for a compatriot of his – the Sardinian Pinuccio Sciola – to achieve the miracle that had escaped the Renaissance genius: to give matter a voice. In the mid-1990s, Sciola – who died in 2016 – began to investigate the sound of the stones he used to make his sculptures. In his hometown of San Sperate – 20km from Cagliari and home to 8,000 inhabitants – he built a pagan altar to them. Known as the Giardino Sonoro, it receives some 12,000 visitors a year. Entering this prairie dotted with orange trees and wandering among more than 700 sculptures with incisions carved into them is a powerful experience. While he was >

En San Sperate, una pequeña ciudad al sur de Cerdeña, el desaparecido escultor Pinuccio Sciola creó sus famosas piedras sonoras. Pero el lugar se ha convertido también en un museo al aire libre con más de 400 murales cuyo pulso creativo nunca se detiene

Texto: María Contreras. Fotos: Luigi Fiano

## ROCK MUSIC

In San Sperate, a small city in southern Sardinia, the late sculptor Pinuccio Sciola created his famous sound stones. The place is now an outdoor museum of more than 400 murals, and its creative pulse beats louder than ever





Tomaso y María Sciola; un rincón en casa de Pinuccio; y un mural de Pilloni  
Tomaso and María Sciola; the artist's studio; an Angelo Pilloni mural

artista, siempre descalzo, recibía a todo el que se acercaba y, con sus enormes manos, o sirviéndose de otra piedra, hacía 'cantar' a las rocas. "Les profesaba un enorme respeto, y me decía que tenía que acariciarlas con delicadeza, como a un hijo", explica María Sciola, su hija pequeña, que junto a sus hermanos Tomaso y Chiara preserva el legado de su padre a través de la Fundación Pinuccio Sciola.

Maria señala una piedra calcárea con incisiones verticales. La roza y la escultura parece balancearse. "Mi padre derribó los términos que asociamos a las piedras: rígidas, mudas, sin alma. Hasta la expresión 'corazón de piedra' cambia de significado", sonríe. Se acerca entonces a un monolito de basalto y comienza a tocarlo; la melodía que extrae provoca una emoción intensa e inmediata. "Es como un grito arrancado de la tierra", señala. Tomaso no ha olvidado el impacto que le causó ver por primera vez llorar a alguien ante la obra de su padre: "Era una profesora holandesa. Lloraba como una niña, profundamente conmovida. Pinuccio decía que después de una visita al jardín la gente no podría volver a mirar una montaña con indiferencia". >

Pero Sciola hizo mucho más por San Sperate que regalarle este mágico espacio. También fue el impulsor, en 1968, de la "revolución de los muros blancos", un *happening* artístico participado por los ciudadanos, que pintaron de blanco las paredes de sus casas para que artistas de todo el mundo las usaran como lienzo. Y así fue como una ciudad agrícola como tantas otras se transformó en un ejemplo de convivencia social y en un gran museo al aire libre con más de 400 murales.

"Art was a pretext for being together," says Angelo Pilloni, a muralist in his own right and cousin of Pinuccio. "All the doors were open, and it has offered cultural nourishment to the young people."

Everyone points at Pinuccio as the driver



alive, the barefoot artist would personally receive visitors and, scraping them with his hands or another stone, would make the stones 'sing'. "He treated them with enormous respect. He told me that he had to be very gentle, as if they were his children," explains María Sciola, his youngest daughter. Together with her brother Tomaso and sister Chiara, she preserves their father's legacy through the Pinuccio Sciola Foundation.

Maria points out a limestone rock with vertical incisions on top. She brushes it and the sculpture seems to rock, as if it were flexible. "My father did away with the terms we associate with stones: hard, rigid, mute, soulless... Even the phrase 'heart of stone' changes meaning," she smiles. Then she goes over to a basalt monolith and starts to touch it. Its sound causes intense and immediate emotion. "It's like a cry ripped from the land," she says. Her brother Tomaso recalls the impact of their father's work on a visitor: "It was a Dutch university teacher. She cried like a little girl, she was so deeply touched. Babbo used to say that, after a visit to the garden, people could never look at a mountain with indifference again."

However, Sciola did much more for San Sperate than giving it this magical space. In 1968, he also led the so-called White Walls revolution, when locals painted the walls of their houses white so artists from around the world could use them as canvases. Thus a small and ordinary agricultural town became an example of social harmony and a large outdoor museum of more than 400 murals. "Art was a pretext for being together," says Angelo Pilloni, a muralist in his own right and cousin of Pinuccio. "All the doors were open, and it has offered cultural nourishment to the young people."

Everyone points at Pinuccio as the driver behind the town's artistic vibe, which has also inspired musicians, actors and even a best-selling novelist... people whose creative endeavours may quite possibly not have seen the light without >



El muralista Angelo Pilloni, y Fiorenzo Pilia junto a una de sus esculturas

Muralist Angelo Pilloni. Below: Fiorenzo Pilia and his sculptures



una artista textil que afirma deberle mucho "a lo que vi aquí toda la vida". O de Paolo Concu, que ha llenado su patio de tótems coloristas que pone a disposición de todos. "como hacía Pinuccio". Se le empañan los ojos al recordar a su amigo, y dice que sueña con él a menudo: "Pero me despierto con el impulso de hacer cosas, de seguir adelante".

El ayuntamiento está creando un centro de intercambio cultural para acoger a los artistas que siempre acababan en casa de Pinuccio. Además, la ciudad festejará en mayo la segunda edición de San Arte, un festival de la creatividad que es una de las muchas ideas que él dejó desarrolladas. "Decía que el arte es el santo que deberíamos celebrar todos los días", apunta la guía turística Marzia Piras. Por su parte, los hijos de Pinuccio están volcados en organizar el archivo del que fue un artista tremadamente prolífico –también trabajó con pintura, madera, hierro, arcilla...–, y volver a convertir su hogar, el lugar donde creaba, donde pergeñaba sus proyectos, y donde cocinó incontables *minestrone* para amigos y extraños, en una casa-museo con las puertas siempre abiertas. Porque su filosofía integradora dejó una huella humana indeleble en la ciudad en la que hoy yace enterrado. En su lápida, solo esta frase: 'Pinuccio Sciola. Escultor, nacido de una piedra, amante de la tierra, del agua, de las flores, del sol.' ☀

San Sperate's contagious energy. A good example is Fiorenzo Pilia, who uses recycled materials to create his monumental sculptures with slogans. Or Pietrina Atzori, a textile artist who owes a great deal "to what I have seen here my entire life". Or Paolo Concu, who has filled his courtyard with colourful totems: "It's a contribution I want to make to the town, like Pinuccio did." His eyes fill with tears when he recalls his friend, and he says he dreams of him frequently: "But I wake up with the urge to do things. You have to keep going."

San Sperate is creating a cultural exchange centre for hosting artists who once stayed at Pinuccio's house. The town is also preparing to host the second edition of San Arte in May, a festival of creativity inspired by the artist. Meanwhile, his children are organising the archive of a hugely prolific artist (he also worked in paint, wood, iron, clay and other materials). They aim to turn his home – where he created, designed and cooked minestrone for friends and strangers – into a museum house with its doors always open, partly because his hospitable and inclusive philosophy made him a truly unique artist, but also because he left an indelible human mark on the town where he is now buried. His tombstone reads simply: 'Pinuccio Sciola. Sculptor, born of a stone, lover of earth, water, flowers and sun.'



El grupo Iberia vuela a Olbia desde finales de marzo y a Cagliari desde el 15 de abril. Reserva en [iberia.com](#)

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