



EUROPEAN **FORUM** FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Connecting People to Restore Just Relations

11th international conference of the EFRJ

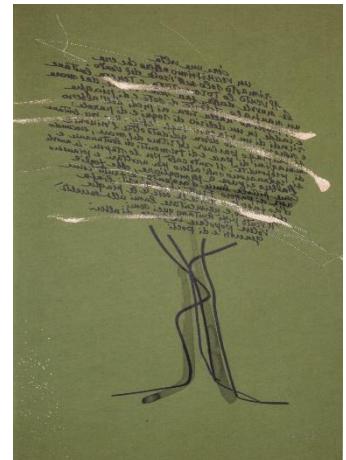
JUSTICE BEYOND BORDERS **Restorative connections through space and language**

Sassari, Italy

The image of our poster

Our poster is based on "*La Leggenda del Naufrago*" (The Legend of the Castaway, 1997), an artwork of one of the greatest "relational artist", Sardinian artist Maria Lai (1919-2013). The old tree contains a story, written on the contrary from right to left, of a "castaway" that by sharing his journey experience of peace and torments brings life back to the island.

Once upon a time there was a very old tree that had remained alone on the island of wind. The wind tormented it and kept the clouds away from its thirst. A castaway came from the sea sore of thirst and wounds. He dragged himself from the shore to the foot of the tree and fell into a delirium of dreams and words: memories of a journey across the abyss. A distant and unknown voice had conducted him beyond the horizon. The castaway spoke with the rhythm of the sea, evoking images of peace and torments, of distances and depths. The wind eased off in amazement. The clouds gathered on the tree to listen and they cried. The tree started sprouting again, its leaves were like little silver spears and its fruits like sparrow eggs. Prodigious fruits: melted gold lymph to soothe the thirst and wounds of the world, and feed light to the sacredness. The wind took those seeds away. It wanted to populate the land with generous trees and poets.



Another art project of Maria Lai is particularly relevant for restorative justice: "*Legarsi alla Montagna*" (Tied to the Mountain, 1981). In this participatory art project, which took place in a village where old unsolved conflicts damaged many relationships, all inhabitants were asked to tie the village to the mountain using a large blue thread. There was only one rule to follow, meant to show the type of relationship existing among the inhabitants: if the thread went straight in front of the houses it meant there was a conflict among the families; friendships were shown with a knot in the thread and love with a piece of bread. In this way Maria Lai helped the community to make conflicts visible and encourage an open dialogue among the inhabitants.

Thanks to the Archivio Maria Lai for its cooperation on the use of this image to promote our event.
More info here: www.archiviomarialai.com

