



REgeneration of disused Industrial Sites
through Creativity in Europe
607507-CREA-1-2019-1-IT-CULT-COOP1



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SCARTI

ACTIVITY 1- RESEARCH WORKSHOPS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Responsible: Associazione culturale Gli Scarti in collaboration with Comune di Santo Stefano di Magra

FINAL REPORT: GLI SCARTI

PERIOD Feb 2020- May 2021

PLACE Ex Ceramica Vaccari, Santo Stefano di Magra (SP)

PARTICIPANTS

1st step Feb 2020- 20 students from Secondary school in Santo Stefano di Magra, aged 11

2nd and 3rd step August 2020-Jan-May 2021 25 students from La Spezia highschoools, aged between 16 and 18

(all the students came from different highschool, such as Liceo Classico L.Costa, Liceo Scientifico Pacinotti, Liceo Artistico Cardarelli and others)

ACT 1'S DESCRIPTION

The act 1 had different steps due to the Covid situation that forced us to stop the activity and changed plans many times.

1st step: February 2020

1 theatre and movement workshop, conducted by Enrico Casale and Silvia Battistini, with 2 classes from secondary school in Santo Stefano di Magra, based on the historical background of the area and the discovery of the site by the students, throughout the artistic tolls and vision. The result of this artistic survey should have been a video made by the students. The workshop started in February 2020 but due to Covid 19 couldn't be finished.

2nd step: August 2020

1 theatre and movement workshop, conducted by Enrico Casale, Silvia Battistini with a focus on contemporary dance with dancers Alessandro Pallecchi and Emanuela Serra, from Balletto Civile. The participants were students from highschool, a voluntary group. The workshop was planned as a 4 days intensive in the premises of ex Ceramica Vaccari, during the 2020 edition of Fisiko Festival. The aim was to allow the participants to experience the site from an artistic point of view, and to live it as an artistic place, taking part also in the making of the contemporary dance production for the festival. The workshop was supposed to finish with a short video of the experience, that couldn't be provided due to a Covid 19 stop. We planned to finish it in October 2020



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3rd step Jan-May 2021

1 theatrical workshop, divided in 2 group and complementary activities, with students from La Spezia's highschoools: a theatre and and movement workshop, conducted by Enrico Casale and a set design workshop conducted by Alessandro Ratti. Both the group started from the analysis of materials of historical archive of Vaccari. The tools for both the theatrical laboratory and the scenographic one were the same: videos of historical testimonies, books on the subject of "former industries", graphic research on old posters and simple searches on the Internet. The basis of these "research tools" has always been characterized by a look towards the past and history to understand what the former industry may be in the future (in a general sense, not just Vaccari). From the start of the project, Gli Scarti's first action was to create a relationship with schools to explain the nature of the Rescue project: not only theatre but also historical research in the places of the former Vaccari ceramic industry, meet the group participants to explain the Rescue project to them and evaluate possible interactions. Among the fundamental organizational actions, however, it is important to underline the commitment of the Association to bring the group of students to the former industrial area to learn about the place, its history and to perform theatrical rehearsals of the spaces. Among the fundamental organizational actions, however, it is important to underline the commitment of the Association to bring the group of students to the former industrial area to learn about the place, its history and to perform theatrical rehearsals of the spaces. Among the methods used for the theater workshop were obviously vocal and physical expressiveness, dance, character construction, scenic improvisation, dramaturgical writing. As for the scenographic part, the re-use of abandoned materials often found in the Vaccari area, the use of paints, glues and additional materials to give new life to the old ones was important.

ACT 1 OUTCOMES

- closer connections with surrounding schools and further joint project ideas in the education sector
- direct involvement of users and visitors in the cultural process and contribution to an ongoing archive of reflections
- innovation, due to the use of digital and virtual tools (also improved to elude the restrictions about live presence and activities due to Covid 19)
- increase of awareness of history of work in the former industrial sites, in young people and citizens

Both from the point of view of the organization (new contacts, etc ..) for example Fosdinovo and the possibility of exporting the laboratory elsewhere (Modena) and for the place (possibility of being seen by more people, etc.) the Rescue project has created a dense network of human achievements both in the La Spezia area and outside it and a notable artistic and socio-cultural interest around the work carried out by the Gli Scarti within the industrial site. In fact, if the large local public who came to see the show "The Second Kingdom" in June that did not know the Vaccari area returned to the site in September to participate in the transnational residency days was a source of satisfaction for Scarti, even greater was satisfaction for the interest shown by those who came from outside the Ligurian territory. The important and award-winning writer Antonio Moresco, attending the show in Vaccari, decided to invest in the group of teenage actors for a work (always site-specific) based on one of his books. On the show formula that mixes historical research on working life and literature (in our case the Divine Comedy) various entities have been interested (for example Drama Teatro di Modena) which have identified as many disused industrial sites in their reference cities, looking at the Gli Scarti-Rescue project as a formula that, with the right funding, would become applicable to other situations on the national territory that feel the need to re-evaluate the industrial sites present in their territories, through theater and culture, especially involving the age group high school. Last but not least, the interesting proposal that arrived in Scarti from a neighboring municipality in Santo Stefano di Magra, Fosdinovo. In the first days of October, the video installation by Alessandro Ratti taken from the work with teenagers in Vaccari ("inaugurated" in the days of the transnational residency) was presented in Fosdinovo with an audience interested and interested in the themes proposed by the Rescue project and by Scarti.

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CONSIDERATION AND ANALYSIS

Activity 1 was one of the most challenging aspects of RESCUE project due to iCOVID-19 and the lockdowns because it made it impossible to interact directly with the participants and even to enter the project space, and all the period and plan were changed different times. Also, these difficulties challenged us to find different solutions and in the end to interact with different groups of students in the 3 steps of the Act1. The difficulty of the live work, at the beginning, encouraged us to use digital technology and digital tools to stay in touch with the group of students. The idea of finding a way to make the output of the activity lasting and being enjoyable not only in the live performance pushed us to use new technologies, such as the QR code.

Strengths:

- Networking of educational institutions with cultural projects
- Development of further projects
- Strengthening of creative competences of students

Weaknesses:

- Pandemic conditions – difficulties to organize the work and changes in the original plans

Opportunities:

- Development of hybrid educational offerings (digital and physical)

Threats:

- loss of physical classroom contact

OUTPUTS

The activity 1 flowed into activity 4, leading to the performance *Il secondo regno – Cantica industriale*, performed on June 18th in Vaccari. All the text played from the actors (student participating to the workshop) and all the set designing were the outputs of the months of workshop and of all the researchs done within it.

To let the audience experience the huge work the participants made and to have it in a form that could be enjoyed also after the workshop and the live performance we transformed the materials in an installation presented during the Transnational Residency in September 2021: we have created an installation path in which, through the QR codes, the audience can see the videos of the extracts of the show (monologues written by the students during the workshop, thanks to the research work carried out in those months) and an interactive table where the public could see the research work of the scenography group on the territory adjacent to the factory, with the mapping of all the places where the materials of the factory have been used over time.