



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



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SCARTI

ACTIVITY 5 – TRANSNATIONAL ARTISTIC RESIDENCY

13th -18th of September 2021

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

Partner responsible for Act 5 – Associazione culturale Gli Scarti and Comune di Santo Stefano di Magra (LP)

FINAL REPORT

According to the project Gant, the transactional residency was planned at the end of the activities of the Rescue project, in the spaces of the Ex Ceramica Vaccari in Santo Stefano di Magra.

Due to the project changes for the pandemic situation of Covid 19, the residency was in fact the only time in which all the partners met together in presence, as the planned face-to-face meetings and the opportunities for mobility were canceled, for which it would be possible for the partners to visit each other and participate in each others' activities. These missed meeting opportunities, albeit replaced by an intense planning and consultation activity online, would have given way to deepen the connections between partners as well as to be able to remodel the planning of Activity 5, based on previous experiences.

Despite these difficulties, at the same time the residency represented a moment of meeting and final exchange that was very interesting and productive and allowed us to work together organizing a live event, with art installations and live events, strengthening the productive links between partners.

After various online meetings and proposals on the shape that the residency should take, it was decided, in agreement with LP, to gather all the public events planned in Santo Stefano di Magra in addition to Act 5, such as the transactional workshop and Cantieri Creativi, in a single week, full of events. This idea, in addition to the possibility of combining the huge setting-up efforts and the organization, together with Comune di Santo Stefano di Magra (LP), manager of the Act 5 together with Gli Scarti, also allowed to concentrate the public moments of the events of the Rescue project to ensure greater visibility and turnout of public at all the events and meetings foreseen by the full-bodied program of REW-European week, as the general event has been renamed.

By mutual agreement between the partners, it was decided that each partner would present the work of some of the artists selected by them, who had participated in the events of the single partner linked to the Rescue project, inviting them to participate and perform during the week from 13th to 18th of September, 2021.

The curatorial choice by the partners was also made on the basis of the usable spaces of the Ex Ceramica Vaccari, so that the work of each artist was as site-specific as possible, even in the case of works already completed: the artists were proposed some locations and possibilities and were asked to imagine or adapt their artistic work accordingly, which they lent themselves to in a very open and generous way.

During the months preceding Act 5 there were many exchanges between the partners for issues related to the organization and production of the residence: Gli Scarti, together with LP, guest of the residency in the spaces it manages, sent all the information (technical specifications, photos, ...) about the spaces that can be used by the artists, while the partners collected all the material and technical needs of the artists in order to achieve an optimal organization and installation of the works in the right location, both spatial and temporal, giving life to the specific program of the days

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of the residency. This has led to the establishment of a program rich in both events and quality, opening the space of the Ex Ceramica Vaccari to numerous international artists, offering the audience, not only local, a unique opportunity to interact with the structure.

The strength of the artistic residency was the variety of artists present, with regard to specific artistic works: the program included workshops, video and sound installations, exhibitions, videos, live performances and murals, painted during the residency. The setting up of all the artistic works allowed the public who attended the space throughout the week to interact directly with the artists and to be able to see the work in progress and the implementation of some of the works, creating a moment of exchange and an unusual artistic experience. (For example the artists Luca Di Maggio and Robert Deutsch worked throughout the week completing their site specific murals).

The dialogue of the artists with the spaces and with the history of the place was also very stimulating, which gave rise to site-specific artistic experiences: the murals of the aforementioned Di Maggio and Deutsch, who took inspiration for their subjects from the history of Ex Ceramica Vaccari and its protagonists, the artist Toni Soprano Meneglejte, who adapted her installation work to the space, including in her artistic project also some furniture of the space, the sound installation by Zahara Mani, who adapted her work to the evocative space of the former Vaccari warehouse, as well as Klara Zeitz, setting up her sound installation, Chistin Haupt who used some of the materials from the factory in her Tales on Tiles workshop.

Another very interesting aspect of the residency was the participation of some of the students who were protagonists of the Rescue workshops and activities in the area, conducted by Gli Scarti (act 1 and act 4), in the workshops proposed by the artists invited by the partners: high school students of the theatre workshop of Gli Scarti were the participants of the theatre of the oppressed's workshop by Barbara Polajnar: they were offered to participate in a different and complementary proposal to the activity already conducted, meeting and comparing themselves with foreign artists. Also the students of the middle school of Santo Stefano di Magra, with whom activity 1 was interrupted due to the pandemic, participated in the creative workshop Tales on tiles by Christin Haupt, and were able to visit the site of the Ex Ceramica Vaccari, meeting the artists, being able to ask them questions and experiencing the place from a unique perspective, ideally closing the circle of the workshop's activity in the territory of Santo Stefano di Magra, that started and ended with them. This joint venture was made possible by Comune di Santo Stefano di Magra who curated the relationship with the school.

The transnational residency represented an important moment of exchange and comparison between the partners, a virtuous example of the main objective of the entire Rescue project, the redevelopment of disused industrial sites through culture and art, transforming the spaces of the Ex Ceramica Vaccari in an interactive museum and in a place of artistic exchange for artists, operators and above all the public.



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ARTISTS PARTICIPANTS

Klanghaus

ZAHRA MANI, UK/PK/AT musician and composer - JAKA BERGER, SL musician and composer - MARIO EGGER, AT technical realization

X-OP

MAJA HODOŠČEK, SL - author of video works, installations - BOJANA KRIŽANEC, SL:sculptor and performer
TONI SOPRANO MENEGLEJTE, SL visual artist - BARBARA POLAJNAR, SL performer, producer, and pedagogue of theatre workshops

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ROBERT DEUTSCH, DE visual artist - LUCA DI MAGGIO, IT painter - CHRISTIN HAUPT, DE media designer, art pedagogue - KLARA CHARLOTTE ZEITZ, DE author of essays, shortstories, video works and installations
XUAN, USA - new media artist, filmmaker and pianist

Gli Scarti

ALESSANDRO RATTI, IT artist and set designer - ENRICO CASALE, IT theatre director and trainer

LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ART WORKS PRESENTED

ZAHARA MANI (UK/PK/AT) RESCUE-POST INDUSTRIAL DYNAMICS sound installation

RESCUE - post-industrial dynamics" at Vaccari is an 8-channel installation based on a live performance by Zahra Mani, Rupert Huber and Balazs Pandi at Ars Electronica in Linz in the Big Concert Night 2021. A radio version of the piece was remixed for ORF OE1 Kunstradio by Rupert Huber, with an additional violin track by Mia Zabelka. The installation version gathers sonic reflections of RESCUE from across the partner region, re-contextualizing them in the abandoned site at Santo Stefano di Magra.

ZAHARA MANI AND JAKA BERGER (SL) REFLECTIONS OF EMPTY SPACES live performance

Abandoned spaces are a big part of modern society. Urban spaces once full of life are being left behind for nature to take back what had been green and was transformed into concrete. Just like physical spaces, in music and sound creation, artists produce lots of sound material that is discarded in the process. To relate and connect with the abandoned industrial space, the duo will integrate raw drums, objects and bass guitar with electronic modular synthesis sounds and field recordings. By merging the two worlds of the active and the discarded, the composition will resound within the walls of the empty habitat. By using the building itself as a resonator, a dialogue will be established between the artists and the space as a reminder and reflection on new potentials within abandoned spaces.

MARIO EGGER (AT) VIRTUAL TOUR // RÖMERSTEINBRUCH AFLENZ 360° interactive video

This project is a digital platform in the form of an immersive virtual tour. The platform was developed as part of the EU project RESCUE, in collaboration with Klanghaus, and is primarily intended as a digital learning environment for students. The tour leads through the Roman quarry in Aflenz an der Sulm in southern Styria. The tour focuses on the history of the site and is complemented by performances by some artists. The virtual tour integrates interactive features which allow visitors for example to draw, make music or leave messages for other visitors.

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ROBERT DEUTSCH SPRITZ-TOUR TO HELL murale

Carlo Vaccari, the owner of the old Vaccari ceramics factory, and Dante Aligheri travel together to one of the circles of hell to find a place for him. This place is safe for him because he has enriched himself at the expense of his workers' health. The industrial history of the factory combines with the technological progress of fantastic machines, here represented by the car. With Dante at the Wheel, Robert Deutsch brings history into the now in the Dante Year 2021 and translates the divine comedy into a futuristic version of history, asking the question whether hell is still contemporary at all or whether it is already a part of our reality.

LUCA DI MAGGIO LA FATICA murale

In life, although in different ways, we all experience fatigue such as the representations of this cyclist on the doorstep. It is not just a question of physical fatigue, but of psychological fatigue. A winning mentality is a combination of different skills such as self-esteem, awareness, emotional management and the ability to look inside oneself to understand one's own mistakes and to have a positive experience for tomorrow. Challenging times must be faced through the exercise of positive thinking and resilience to become an evolved version of oneself.

KLARA CHARLOTTE ZEITZ (DE) MANIFESTO OF TRANSFORMATION video

In five short films, the path to inner independence of social conditions is poetically illustrated and generalised in a contemporary way. In the first film, the state of harmonious isolation in and with nature is described. Proximity and distance, "isolation" and community, island and mainland. In the second film, the process of "parting", the loss of something or someone and dealing with the remaining shadows is the theme. This can be a person, values or rights that remain as shadows. "Furore" is about the reaction to this loss. Anger as a feeling of borderline experience, as an act of liberation and the first part of an individual revolution. The fourth film is the longest part, the "metamorphosis", which is represented by unmasking. As a utopian vision, the fifth part "Utopia - a new language" concludes the question of a new way of dealing with speech and language and thus an empathetic and appreciative society.

KLARA CHARLOTTE ZEITZ (DE) UNSPOKEN FORMS - RECLAIMING SPEECH sound installation

Poetic forces – ethical and aesthetic strategies for making oneself heard, which culminate in a sensory perception – are at the centre of Klara Charlotte Zeitz's installation work. How can we perceive more sensuously and empathically, and perceive words in a different way in order to get with something or someone? Above all, the works represent an emancipatory, global and "female" perspective. What connects the narrative of contemporary, timeless, transnational and origin-independent women? Unspoken Forms - Reclaiming Speech attempts to give a subjective answer to this in a critical and at the same time playful observation between the personal and the political, the affective and the analytical.

CHRISTIN HAUPT (DE) TALES ON TILES workshop

In this workshop with children from a 3rd grade secondary school, we looked at the old Vaccari ceramic factory. While exploring the industrial wasteland, the children got an impression of the historic architecture and an idea of the history. Immediately afterwards, we went to work. Using materials steeped in history, the pupils* create impressive works of art. They used old tiles produced in Vaccari, current photos, historical photos, as well as old, original financial books from the industrial wasteland. Using a special photo transfer technique, the children transferred collages of photos and financial documents onto the tiles. These tiles, just like the earlier tile samples, are placed on the original presentation boards and now show the fusion of history and a young generation on 29.5x29.5 cm. Ultimately, this is the beginning of giving new meaning to the supposed end of a factory and arousing the curiosity of a young generation to provide the impetus for the realisation of countless possibilities.

XUAN (DE) DECAY INTERLUDE video installation

Xuan is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has studied media spaces at the BTK University of Art and Design in Berlin. She is currently teaching experimental filmmaking as an adjunct professor of humanities at Eastman and works as a freelance video artist. She has held performances at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the MCA Chicago, the Smithsonian Institution, University of South Carolina, Carnegie Mellon University, Constellation, SF Jazz, Le Poisson Rouge and the Indie Grits Film Festival. She has exhibited recent interactive design projects at the ErsterErster Gallery in Berlin, Germany, the

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ibug Urban Art Festival in Reichenbach, Germany and the Design Biennale 2019 in Zurich, Switzerland. Xuan is a new media artist, filmmaker and pianist working at the intersection between music, visual art and technology. Her work includes experimental animation, abstract scenography, narrative documentaries, music videos, videography, interactive installations and real-time audio-visual programming. With a background as a contemporary classical pianist, she actively develops innovative, cross-disciplinary projects that broaden the immersive scope of new music through technology. Her current projects include Art on the MART in Chicago, USA, a projection installation on the largest projection surface in the world, in collaboration with GRAMMY-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird; an installation at the ibug urban art festival in Flöha, Germany, and at the RESCUE Residency in Santo Stefano di Magra, Italy.

BOJANA KRŽANEC SL METAMORPHOSIS OF THE HEART, sculptures

The small heart sculptures that are installed in the space are made intuitively, without a previous plan, but like a stream of consciousness, with the free flow of thoughts, feelings and sensations coming from the surroundings. I imagine early clay works were made in a similar way, by exploring the material and creating a narrative, so it could be used in rituals or everyday activities.

TONI SOPRANO MENEGLEJTE (SL) PACKED HISTORY vol.2 sound installation

We cannot escape from the past. We can hide from it, adapt to it or distort it. We are the constructors. The sound installation Packed History vol. 1 questions the truthfulness of information or the information itself, the phenomenon that affects humanity in general. The installation talks about the power of (intelligent) information, its manipulation and its impact on trust.

MAJA HODOŠČEK (SL) UNTITLED (WORK IN PROGRESS) video

Maja Hodošček (1984) is the author of video works and installations; she puts together workshops and curates exhibitions. She was awarded an MA from the Dutch Art Institute in Arnhem, NL. Her work has been shown in many international group exhibitions, such as Hidden Curriculum, tranzit.sk, Bratislava; Silence is Deafness Here, Gallery Podroom, Belgrade; Beyond the Globe, Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana; South by South East, Guangdong Times Museum, China; Pipe Dream, Kunsthal - le Exnergasse, Vienna; Travelling Community, Museum of Yugoslav History, Belgrade. She has presented her work in solo exhibitions at the Dom Omladine, Belgrade; the Museum of Contemporary Art – MSUM, Ljubljana; the Miroslav Kraljević Gallery, Zagreb; ŠKUC Gallery, Ljubljana; the Gregor Podnar Gallery, Ljubljana, etc. In 2020 she received the Rihard Jakopič national award for artistic achievements, and in 2010 she won OHO Award.

Maja Hodošček will document the event programme. She will make a short video in a poetic visual encounter with the industrial heritage.

BARBARA POLAJNAR (SL) INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE AND THE AESTHETIC OF THE OPPRESSED workshop

Barbara Polajnar is a performer, producer and pedagogue of theatre workshops. In the 3-hour workshop of the Theatre of the Oppressed, participants will explore the relations between art and the industrial heritage through the aesthetic of the oppressed, which includes rhythms, words, sounds and poetic ways of expressing our own aesthetic method. Aesthetics of the Oppressed is a term used by Augusto Boal for a wide range of cultural and artistic activities developed by communities to challenge, resist and transform oppression. As an upgrade to the base of Theatre of the Oppressed and Pedagogy of the Oppressed, aesthetics restores the power of art and theatre to “free the oppressor as well as the oppressed”. Hence, through creativity, art, dialogue and education, it “restores our deepest humanity”. It represents a fusion of various approaches and techniques with the desire to discuss scenes of oppression from an aesthetic viewpoint.

ALESSANDRO RATTI (IT) Il secondo regno- The Table - Interactive Exhibition

The group of scenographers shifted the work to the urban context. After studying the materials produced by the factory, they searched for them in La Spezia and neighbouring areas to create a photographic map. This unusual work for the scenographers placed the focus on the local area and highlighted the relationship between the ceramics produced in the factory and the inhabitants of the local area. Hundreds of types of tiles, all produced in the Vaccari factory, have re-designed

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the urban geography of the city of La Spezia and its surroundings: many of these materials, which Progetto Nova has collected for the Vaccari historical archive, are present in the exhibition. The table hosts both the map of Dante's route in the square and the map of the tiles in the city and surroundings. The archival materials in the drawers were examined and used to build the work.

ENRICO CASALE (IT) The path in the factory – installation

The installation in the square of the Ex Ceramica Vaccari is a path, inspired by Dante's Purgatory and the testimonies of the former Vaccari workers, where the public, as in the journey of the Supreme Poet, will be able to meet the characters who once lived in the factory: the factory tiles, stacked in the manner of typical mountain signs, indicate the presence of QR-codes, through which it will be possible to see the monologues taken from the show, re-edited specifically for the installation. With the collaboration of artist and set designer Alessandro Ratt and the group of students from the scenography laboratory, wanted to "fix" the theatrical occurrence in a digital installation to make those words and bodies continue to live inside the industrial spaces of Vaccari.