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MIGRANTI

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Who and what

Migrant Landscapes is a group of people, with multiple years experience in architecture and urban planning, research, environmental education, community engagement, photography and sounddesign.

Migrant Landscapes is an Italian born collective project, aimed at experimenting multidisciplinary research on landscape. As a 'stateless' and polymorphic body, Migrant Landscapes moves across different geographies to reach new unexplored territories and to tell of distant communities.

Migrant Landscapes is an experiment, an attempt to understand how the languages of art and architecture, can be tools provided to ordinary citizens to understand their territories and re-invent them, with a view to more sustainable management.

Our trajectories

Migrant Landscapes was born in 2015 in Pennabilli, a small hamlet in the Italian Apennines, aimed at discovering the Valmarecchia territory and to promote a public debate around its landscape through research, art languages and the engagement of local communities.

Over the years the group has been enriched with new components, new experiences and new projects, and has been involved in the organization of international workshops, artistic residencies, call for projects and exhibitions, collaborating with other groups and institutions that actively engage in issues relating to landscape both on a local and international level.

Migrant landscapes evokes the idea of a dynamic landscape, which in its movement found its origin and which continues to change, to move, like a ship in search of a direction. But what is the direction? Which is the dream?

This is what we would like to ask to people, adhering to the European Landscape Convention, which defines a landscape by placing at the center the unique and singular perception of communities.

To ask for direction means first of all to imagine, to look for points of reference, to ask questions. And asking questions is a starting point to talk about the landscape, and therefore to unveil how the places are lived and formulate ideas on how to respond to their problems and to build resilient communities.

Migrant Landscape arises from this challenge to mobilize human perception and catalize processes of transformation, by fostering exchange of knowledge and experiences between various geographical and social contexts, to create new values.

A project that travels, moves to other places, and makes different languages and methodological approaches dialogue with each other to keep alive the debate and realize project related to those of the landscape, and its transformation.

November 2017 | **I nuovi abitanti della montagna**

Piccolo Festival di Antropologia della Montagna
Berceto (PR), Italia

Berceto welcomes fifteen asylum seekers and refugees (arrived thanks to the national SPRAR system) who are trying to build a new life in a context totally alien to them. For the PFAM Festival, we decided to talk about the life in the mountains of five “new inhabitants” of Berceto, focusing on the way in which they relate with the territory of the Apennines and they perceive the surrounding landscape.

The project was presented within the PFAM Festival and as part of the exhibition 999 Una collezione di domande sull’abitare contemporaneo at Triennale di Milano, from 11th January to 2nd April.

Partners: Piccolo Festival di Antropologia della Montagna
Collaborators: Ph. Federico Torra



Pictures from **I nuovi abitanti della montagna**



Giugno 2017 | **Floating Mountains Artist Residency and International Workshop**
Pennabilli, Festival Artisti in Piazza 2017
Rimini, Italy

Once upon a time, a constellation of rocks generated from a whole calcareous block started to navigate over the clay beds moving from the west and eventually fragment into numerous pieces, thus generating the distinctive soil of not only of Pennabilli, but of the entire Valmarecchia area.

This geological characteristic, which generated Pennabilli territory, became the sparkle to investigate the landscape through different lenses.

Despite the imaginery of rock-solid fixity and immutability that a mountain territory evokes, its landscape changes continuously over time. In the willingness to narrate its transformations, lies the idea of 'Floating Mountains' project.

The fundamental question that invited artists and participants were asked to answer was:

How can a mountain territory, where the bonds between the population and the landscape are so strong, find in it the key for its own future?

How can the principles for this strategy be traced?

Which cultural and practical actions can create a renewed relationship between the environment and communities?

Between March and June 2017, Migrant Landscapes organized an artist residency and international workshop in Pennabilli. We asked 5 artists to develop different projects around the topic of *the floating mountains*. 5 key actions were proposed, to experience the landscape surrounding Pennabilli which represented the background for the project development: observing, crossing, listening and telling. 20 participants from all over the world have been selected to join the workshops and were invited in Pennabilli in June 2017.

Artists: Nele Hartman, Attilio Doreste, Mikael Hansen, Stellepolari, Alessandro Mulazzani
Partners: MUSSS, Festival Artisti in Piazza, IBGE Emilia Romagna, Proloco Pennabilli, Comune di Pennabilli



Pictures from **Floating Mountains International Workshop**



Luglio 2016-17 | **Floating Mountains Exhibition**

Soundzan Festival

San Giovanni in Galilea (RM), Italia

San Giovanni in Galilea is a small hamlet on the top of a hill in the Romagna Appennines. During most of the year, only the few residents (about 50) and some of the tourists who come visiting the area, can enjoy the splendid view that opens to the sea on one side, and the Appennines on the other. But every year, San Giovanni gets populated by people from the whole region to participate to a Festival that takes place in the old town, between the ancient remains of its Malatesta towers and its picturesque alleys, squares and gardens. In 2016 and 2017, Migrant Landscapes was invited to give a contribution to the Soundzan Festival. In the two past editions we elaborated a sound installation and a live performance, thanks to the contribution of Emiliano Battistini, who recorded sounds in the town and surrounding countryside and collected interviews with local people.

We also curated a temporary exhibition (July-October 2017), where we gathered our own work and that of other artists to give a picture of San Giovanni landscape through a photographic project and landart installations, hosted in the Natural and local History Museum (Museo Renzi). Our collaboration with the Festival and the Museo Renzi is still active and other activities will be proposed in the next editions.

Partners: Museo Renzi, Soundzan Festival, Comune di Borghi



Giugno 2017 | **Camera Obscura**

Pennabilli, Festival Artisti in piazza 2016
Rimini, Italy

The Chinese philosopher and founder of Mohism, Mo Di, formally described, in the 5th century BC, the creation of an inverted image of the world formed by light rays passing through a pinhole and projecting inside a dark room. He called this invention the “locked treasure room”.

Across the centuries, this device has been used by artists and travellers to capture the elusive presence of the outside world.

The camera obscura is a machine to collect fragments of reality as if they were precious objects, as living images capable to frame portions of complexity.

Migrant Landscapes launched a call for projects to conceive and design a temporary installation, a ‘treasure room’ for Pennabilli (Rimini) and its surrounding landscape that was activated during the 2016 Festival Artisti in Piazza. This device worked as a camera obscura during the day and as a space for performances during the night.

These two phases of condensed introspection and outward expansion alternated during the life cycle of the installation, acting as a collector of ideas and representations of the landscape.

Collaborators: Valentina Merz, Lara Monacelli, Ivan Sacchetti

