

LZ OPEN / VIRGINIA ZANETTI

Abysses

Lottozero

18.09 - 23.12.2021

“Abysses”, performance, 2018, Palermo.

Ultramarine blue linen fabric, golden thread, 300 x 300 cm

Prints on Canson Baryta, 70 x 100 cm

“Abisses” was born from a collective action that involved the community of migrants hosted in various reception centres in the city of Palermo, several students of the Fine Arts Academy, and some citizens. The project, investigating the concept of abyss and immense depth as a metaphor for the impenetrability of human destiny, leads us to a reflection on the dramatic issue of migrants through a creative choral process on a single piece of ultramarine blue fabric, where stars were embroidered with gold thread. This final collective artwork was raised by the artist and all the participants in several squares of the city of Palermo, becoming a starry sky, supported by human columns. This project was made in collaboration with Astalli Center, curated by Spazio Y, Border Crossing, Manifesta 12 collateral events, Palermo.

“Abysses”, performance, 2019, Zurich.

Video HD, 4'55”

Residents and migrants living in Zurich, have shared the creation of a collective work, by means of embroidery practice on an ultramarine blue fabric. This color symbolizes the sea, the ecosystem from which living beings originate, a trajectory often used by individuals to move from one place to another on our planet. In the course of the performative action the artist invited each participant to embroider a star through with a precious golden thread, whose shape recalls the one painted by Giotto in the heavenly vault of the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua (IT) at the beginning of the 14th century. Embroidery as an opportunity to share and collect memories related to the sea, a practice that becomes a projection of desires and memories to compose constellations made of today's dreams.

Considering the etymology of the word desire, from the Latin *de* (negative meaning) plus *sidus* (star), desire literally means “lack of stars” of those good omens, by extension a feeling of a lack and consequently a passionate research. This work therefore wants to transform the fear of the unknown into a creative act of individual and collective hope. At the end of the performance the fabric becomes the subject of a symbolic action: raised towards the sky, the blue of the abyss becomes sky itself. A sky full of new meanings in a delicate balance between space and time.

The textile piece was made during a performance, curated by Francesca Ceccherini and Beatrice Fontana for “Choreographic the Public”, a project of IIC - Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Zurich 2019, in collaboration with Migration Museum (Zurich), Traffic Gallery (Bergamo), OnCurating Space (Zurich).

(from “Be a Poem”, catalogue of Virginia Zanetti's solo exhibition, curated by Matteo Innocenti, Palazzo D'Accursio, Bologna, 07.05 - 06.06.2021)

Virginia Zanetti (Fiesole, Florence, 1981)

Artist and art professor, she lives in Prato. Degree in painting with honors at the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, specialized in art education.

She works both in unconventional places and Italian and foreign institutions for culture and contemporary art such as the Man of Nuoro, Palazzo Strozzi in Florence, the Center for Contemporary Art Luigi Pecci in Prato, the Kunsthalle of Bern, the Italian Cultural Institute of New Delhi and Zurich.

In 2017, she won the competition to create a permanent artwork for the Palace of Justice in Florence.

Among her other prizes and awards: MIBACT Movin Up 2015 Award; the Maccaferri First Prize for photography, Artefiera, Bologna 2019; Startup Optima 2019, Naples; Level 0, ArtVerona 2020.

Virginia Zanetti is co-founder of the Estuario project space of Prato and of the Laboratory of the Future, a discussion platform where intellectuals from various cultural areas meet and debate the main themes of our time together with citizens.