

NICOLAS HAVETTE / FORTUNES



FORTUNES is an artistic survey of a territory, oscillating between documentary photography and collaborative drawings. This unusual experience and creative process is developed and shared by Nicolas Havette, French artist and curator.

In March 2018, he has been invited by LABOTTEGA as the first artist in residency. During two weeks he did explore Pietrasanta's landscape, life and people, creating a collaborative documentary mythology.

He titled, the first chapter of his residency : "Sur les hauteurs, seul"

As a human reaction, when you arrive in a new place, your brain first tries to find landmarks. Then slowly by slowly you "domesticate" the place and create your own tracks in it, your own mythology. Your attention goes to more and more detailed things: things you didn't notice, appear suddenly. Your attention change of focus and then you integrate the different steps of experiences as constitutive of your own mental map. You give a personal identity to places. Depending on your history, age, activity your way of reading the world change, a permanent and beautiful constant evolution.

In the exhibition FORTUNES / Pietrasanta you can find several pieces which correspond to that period of time for the artist.

The second chapter is titled : "Pietrasanta, ensembles"

During two days, a group of 15 participants did collaborate with the artist to create participative drawings about their Pietrasanta's experiences.

Some of them did bring old pictures from family albums figuring beach activities, portraits of Children or family portraits. This figures one layer of their experience of the territory : the memory.

Using those memories and actual pictures together, all the participants created collective drawings, defining by this way a collaborative perspective on Pietrasanta.

This workshop was also a time for all the participants to meet, share their experiences, reuniting people from 7 to 65 years old.

The third chapter is titled : "La mort du Caravage, heureux celui qui n'a pas de patrie"

Experimenting those time and places the artist was reading the poetry book of Hanna Arendt "Heureux celui qui n'a pas de patrie".

Culture, literature and historical testimony about european history became for the artist a new layer of interpretation of contemporary local landscape.

At the same time he was listening the radio speaking about the death of Caravaggio on an Italian beach, as he was himself walking on the beach. The three layers of reality, radio + book + physical experience of the beach, became one. And the logic of being just one person walking on the beach, as many other people around, did let the place to the fantasy of walking on the tracks of one of the jewish XXth century thinker and the Renaissance famous painter who also used black background for describing life (and death) of common people.

The last drawing done during the residency are dealing with how cultural background can be a frame to hide the physical materiality of our surroundings.

We thank *Agata Massaro, Alice Manfredi, Angela Sinatti, Costanza Tarabella, Elena Guidi, Giuditta Kazantjis, Laura Gibellini, Matilda Pellegrini, Melissa Poini, Marina Massaro, Nicoletta Cerasomma, Sandra Kovach, Wanda D'Onofrio, Valerio Masin* for being part of this experience.

where: LABottega – Marina di Pietrasanta (Lucca) – viale Apua, 188

when: from 24/3 until 10/6/2018

Opening Time : thu 15:30 - 19:30 | fri - sat - sun 15:30 - 22:30 Free entrance

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