

La Maddalena

A video installation by Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

14th International Architecture Exhibition - Monditalia
June 7 – November 14, 2014

CONCEPT

For Monditalia, Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine have been commissioned by Rem Koolhaas, the exhibition curator, to work on a very specific site on the Northern part of Sardinia.

The former Arsenal, partly planned by Stefano Boeri on the island of La Maddalena for the G8 in 2009, is one of the darkest moments of Italian politics in recent years - a polluted, abandoned and inaccessible site. The story of a disaster, symbolizing one of the largest financial and environmental squanders in recent years.

Just 3 miles away, the island of Budelli is an earthly paradise. Mauro Morandi, solitary guardian of the island, has been living for more than 25 years as a Robinson Crusoe of the XXI century. Using what the storms and tides spill onto the beaches, he creates objects, sculptures and furniture. La Maddalena Chair is one of his creations, made of wood reclaimed from the sea and pieces of Murano glass from the facade of the former Arsenal.

The two videos, presented in the installation, bring face to face two stories of lonely resistance in reaction to the waste the G8 affair embodies: the political reflection of Stefano Boeri who comes back on the reasons of this painful failure and the poetic act of Mauro Morandi which, through recycling, makes us think about the ethics of creation.



La Maddalena

The island of La Maddalena was supposed to host the G8 summit in July 2009 but on April 23, 2009, the Prime Minister at the time, Silvio Berlusconi decided to move the event to Aquila, a city that had just been destroyed by an earthquake.

The brand-new complex of the former Arsenal on the island planned by Stefano Boeri to host the event was slowly abandoned.

A court inquest followed which revealed illegal management practices involving corruption, fraud against the state and environmental pollution.

The site, which was supposed to be reclaimed is still polluted today and therefore is completely closed off.

The film is conceived as an introspective wandering of the architect Stefano Boeri going through the abandoned spaces.

Title : La Maddalena

Authors : Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

Duration : 12 min

Year : 2014

Language : Italian

Production : Bêka & Partners



La Maddalena Chair

Mauro Morandi, solitary caretaker of Budelli Island, has been living there for more than 25 years, like a modern Robinson Crusoe.

He creates objects, sculptures and furniture from everything that storms and the sea toss up onto the island's beaches.

The "Maddalena Chair" is one of his creations made from wood recovered from the sea and pieces of Murano glass from the former Arsenal on La Maddalena Island.

Title : La Maddalena Chair

Authors : Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

Duration : 25 min

Year : 2014

Language : Italian

Production : Bêka & Partners

AUTHORS



Filmmakers, writers, producers and publishers, Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine mainly focus their research on experimenting new narrative and cinematographic forms in relation to contemporary architecture. Since 2007, they have been collaborating within Bêka & Partners, a creative platform based in France. The studio produces films and books as research tools to put into question the modalities of the architecture representation.

Following the film « Koolhaas HouseLife », greatly reviewed by the international press after its presentation at the 11th Venice International Architectural Biennale in 2008, Bêka and Lemoine followed their analysis of the architectural icon with 7 other films which compose the collection entitled « Living Architectures » : « Pomerol, Herzog & de Meuron », « Gehry's Vertigo », « Xmas Meier », the trilogy « Inside Piano » ("The Submarine", "The Power of silence", "The Little Beaubourg") and « Living Architectures Zip ». Their last film released, « 25 Bis », is a human portrait of a building built by Auguste Perret in Paris. The film was part of the exhibition « Auguste Perret, Huit Chefs-d'œuvre !/¿ Architectures du béton armé » curated by Joseph Abram and Rem Koolhaas/OMA at Palais d'Iéna in Paris.

Their films have been presented in many international cultural institutions such as MoMA (New-York), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (Paris), Barbican Center (London), Triennale (Milan, Italy), CCA (Montréal, Québec), NAI (Rotterdam, NL), etc.

Ila Beka is an Italian artist and filmmaker who lives and works in France. He trained as an architect with a degree from the IUAV of Venice and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Paris-Belleville. Before his collaboration with Louise Lemoine, Ila Bêka made a lot of short fiction films and a feature film which have been selected and awarded in some of the most important international film festivals such as: Locarno Film Festival, Semaine de la Critique du Festival de Cannes, Mostra del Cinema di Venezia, etc.

Louise Lemoine is a French author and filmmaker who lives and works in France. She is graduated in cinema and philosophy from the Sorbonne, Paris.

Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine are teaching at Columbia University GSAPP (New York Paris program) since 2013.

Press releases on Living Architectures series:
www.living-architectures.com/press.php

Download of hi-res pictures:
www.living-architectures.com/media/PR/La_Maddalena_Photos.zip

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