

Chiaralice Rizzi and Alessandro Laita
The Memory of the Air
30 November, at 7:00 p.m.



Chiaralice Rizzi e Alessandro Laita, *The Memory of the Air*, 2021, courtesy of the artists and Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea of Cinisello Balsamo

nctm e l'arte continues its series of talks dedicated to the protagonists of the contemporary art scene. This talk is dedicated to *The Memory of the Air* project by artists **Chiaralice Rizzi** and **Alessandro Laita** and to its publication.

The talk will be held on 30 November at 7 p.m. in the conference room at Via Agnello 12.

Matteo Balduzzi, curator of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and **Susanna Ravelli**, cultural planner, will join the artists. The event will be presented by **Gabi Scardi**.

The Memory of the Air project originates from a residency of the two artists in Shkodra, at Art House, which took place in 2019 thanks to the support of *nctm e l'arte* call: *Artists-in-Residence*. The project was realised with the support of the Italian Council (9th edition, 2020), a programme for the international promotion of Italian art of the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Ministry of Culture.

The project is a scattered fresco, made up of stories and personal memories. It is the result of the encounter between the two artists and the Marubi National Museum of Photography in Shkodra (Albania), which documents a century of Albanian history and society through a central core of five hundred thousand negatives. The Photo Library is named after Pietro Marubi: an Italian citizen who, after moving to Albania for political reasons and becoming a naturalised Albanian, had early on set up the country's first photographic studio in Shkodra. Thanks also to his successors, the Marubi Photo Library operated continuously from 1856, the year of its foundation, until the mid-20th century.

In recent years, after having fortunately escaped destruction during the regime of Enver Hoxha, the collection of prints and negatives, around which the work of eighteen other photographers has coalesced, has enabled the Albanian community to recover photographic traces of their ancestors and discover aspects of private and collective life that would otherwise have been lost.

nctm e l'arte

via Agnello, 12

20121 Milano

t +39 02 72551 1

f +39 02 72551 501

Being intrigued by this resource, Chiaralice Rizzi and Alessandro Laita carried out an extensive research in the area of Shkodra and Tirana in order to find in people's homes family photographs taken by Pietro Marubi, his successors and, in some cases, by other photographers whose work was included in the archive.

Starting from the photos found in the houses, during encounters specifically organised for such purpose, Rizzi and Laita collected a series of memories from the inhabitants, and when possible from the protagonists of the photos themselves.

This process culminated in their artistic work, which took the form of a nucleus of photographs of the mainly domestic environments in which Marubi's shots are still kept and of a sound installation created from the stories collected.

By recording both the presence of the photographs in the interiors, which are therefore interpreted as living archives, and the stories about the subjects of such photographs, *The Memory of the Air* stands at the intersection of image and word, past and present, private and public, subjective and collective, and highlights the traces of history and the vital bond that the individual has with it. Where official history tends to confine the narrative to a univocal, often reductive version, Laita and Rizzi instead bring out facets, contradictions and unexpected, sometimes unpredictable, often unspoken aspects.

Project realised thanks to the support of the Italian Council (9th edition, 2020), a programme for the international promotion of Italian art by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Ministry of Culture, presented by AFOL Metropolitana with the Bauer school, in collaboration with the Marubi Museum in Shkodra. The photographs related to the project were brought into the collection of the Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea of Cinisello Balsamo (MUFOCO).

The call *nctm e l'arte: Artists-in-Residence* was launched in 2012 by ADVANT Nctm to promote the international mobility of artists living in Italy. The 15th edition of the call is currently open, with deadline fixed on 25 November 2022, at 12 noon CET.

Chiaralice Rizzi and Alessandro Laita

Alessandro Laita (1979) and Chiaralice Rizzi (1982) graduated in Visual Arts at the IUAV in Venice in 2009.

From 2010 to 2015, they worked in the same faculty as assistants for the courses of Antonello Frongia, Lewis Baltz and Adrian Paci.

Their artistic practice focuses on the relationships between landscape, image, memory and their representation. In their work, through a process of observation, images become stories, going beyond simple visual comprehension. Through the use of different media, their research poses critical questions about photographic language as practice. In 2016 they won the Lewis Baltz Research Fund and published their first book with MACK (London). They were recipients of scholarships and artist residencies in Venice (Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa - Italy), Winterthur (Villa Straüli - Switzerland), Saratoga Springs (YADDO - U.S.A), Paris (Cité Internationale des Arts - France).

They were among the winners of the 9th edition of Italian Council promoted by the Ministry of Culture Heritage for the international production and promotion of new works to increase public collections.

They live and work in Milan.

nctm e l'arte

The presentation is part of *nctm e l'arte*, an independent project to support the art of the present, which combines the creation of a collection, the tutoring of artists, the interaction with public institutions and cultural expressions, and the implementation of public projects with a territorial dimension.

Set up in 2011 by Nctm Studio Legale under the art direction of Gabi Scardi, *nctm e l'arte* nurtures critical sensitivity and is a sign of ADVANT Nctm's faith in research, planning and art as a privileged point of view on contemporaneity.

ADVANT Nctm

ADVANT Nctm is the Italian member firm of ADVANT, a distinctly European association of independent law firms focused on helping clients navigate the complex and nuanced legal and commercial landscape of Europe.

With more than 250 professionals, 71 partners and 4 offices in Italy and abroad (Milan, Rome, London and Shanghai), ADVANT Nctm is one of the leading independent Italian law firms in terms of size, number and relevance of transactions handled.

REALIZZATO GRAZIE AL SOSTEGNO DI

PRESENTATO DA

IN COLLABORAZIONE CON



PARTNER CULTURALI



nctm e l'arte

via Agnello, 12

20121 Milano

t +39 02 72551 1

f +39 02 72551 501