

Strade autonome
A project curated by Katia Anguelova & Albane Duvillier



In the world of art, science and philosophy, we are currently witnessing the uncontrollable transformations in socio-political contexts, as well as the fall of ideological certitudes. New markets are opening, new borders are being created, a wall has fallen and many cities are dividing; they've gone back to their original names, and entire nations are inventing new ones. In this metaphorical territory, one observes a wealth, a multitude of monuments being elaborated, of unfinished and abandoned public construction sites.

Italy is one of those nations, particularly in the Lombardy region. There, one counts eight "abandoned" roads just in the province of *Brescia*. Each road is excellent proof of mankind's voluntary blindness: companies gone bankrupt, tunnels which are not up to standards, heated litigations with companies, towns, etc... This is all either due to the impossibility to plan for the territory's usage, or due to a rupture between that which is natural and that which is urban. The "abandoned" roads thus appear as revealing signs of society's wounds.

Contemporary ruins, useless spaces...

This already forgotten architectures are still part of our landscape and because they are useless, they embody an unexpected space for liberty, where everything can be invented, imagined...

Photographs of the eight ghost roads were taken by Flavio Bonetti, soon after their discovery by Diulio Zogno.

Then, Katia Anguelova invited various contributors (philosophers, filmmakers, architects, art critic, curators...) to become an "adoptive parent" of its road by producing an essay, a documentary text, an interview, and others... At last, Albane Duvillier joined the project in order to invite contemporary visual artists to conceive a project. The aim is then to publish a book made up of : the photographs of the abandoned roads, the texts written by the "adoptive parents", and the projects of each artist.

This book is not a photography book, neither an architectural book, but this book is rather putting together various fields of knowledge: architecture, philosophy, photography, sociology, history, visual arts, poetry...

We both consider the book as an exhibition space, following the path of previous printing projects such as: *Xerox book* of Seth Siegelau (1969) or *Do it* of Hans-Ulrich Obrist (1997).

The book is organised around numerous themes such as the political aspect, the relationships between human being and landscape... Visual associations as well as intellectual associations are created in order to reveal these underlying themes.

A post scriptum by the two editors at the end of the book explains the main stakes of the project.

With its various reflections from different fields, its international aspect, its emerging and well-known artists, this book is a very innovative and important project.

Moreover, this book is only a step of an ongoing process that will take various shapes in Europe : exhibitions, workshops, talks...

Up coming interventions in magazines and websites

The monthly review of architecture *domus* invite us to publish a part of our project in the january 2007 issue. This will be a first occasion to conceive some of the links and oppositions between various works before the final publication.

Due to the upcoming exhibition in april 2007 at the **Center Pompidou - National Museum of modern art** : *airs de paris*, run by the curator for contemporary arts : Christine Macel, we are invited to show our project on the website of the exhibition : www.centrepompidou.fr/airsdeparis.

The website is run by the philosoph Elie During and by the sociolog Laurent Jeanpierre and is mainly focusing on the evolutions of the contemporary city, the urban condition.

Description of the book

304 pages

four color printing process

size : H 24 x L 32

paperback edition

quadrilingual publication : texts in original language (english, french, italian and german), and english translation in front of each text.

The three components of the book

° photographs taken by Flavio Bonetti

Black and white, medium size

Born in Brescia in 1956, photographer (Gallery Monica de Cardenas, Milan) and filmmaker, in 1996 : first prize of the Independant Italian Film with the documentary : *Normal*, since 1985 : various collaborations for magazines such as : Vogue, Io Donna, Corriere della Sera, etc...

° « adoptive parents »

Ezio Raimondi (italianist), Pier-Luigi Cervellati (town planner), Giorgio Nebbia (expert in Commercial Technology), Piero Bevilacqua (professor in Contemporary History), Eugenio Turri (geographer), "Grafió" (the group of writers from Prato: Gianni Cascone, Paola Rosati, Luigi Vichi, Mauro Morucci, Katia Dal Monte, Fausto, Fausto Bagattini), Martin Schwartz (professor of Law: town planning in Switzerland), Sandra Pesavento (historian from the Federal University of Rio Grande Do Sul), Jacques Leenhardt (philosopher and Sociologist, Director of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), Roberto Vecchi (professor at the University of Bologna), the scientific committee of the project "Revive Time. Kaki Tree Project" presented at the 48th Venice Biennale, Hans-Ulrich Obrist (art critic & curator of contemporary art at the Serpentine Gallery, London) Nestor Otero (professor in semiotics at the Bahia Bianca University of Argentina), Ermano Olmi (filmmaker), Christabel Desbordes (writer).

° artists

Vito Acconci, Alterazionivideo, Davide Bertocchi, Etienne Boulanger, Carolina Caycado, Plamen Dejanoff, Seamus Farrell, Isabelle Ferreira, Frederico Guzman, Daniela Kostova, Polonca Lovsin - Tomaz Tomazin, Enzo Llubaca, Juan Pablo Macias, Multiplicity, Alessandro Nassiri, Adrian Paci, Stefano Romano, Nedko Solakov, Cannelle Tanc, Temporary Services, Titupröne, Frédéric Vincent, Lorena Zilluero.

The choice of a new publisher : monografik éditions

The first reason for opening a publishing house is a love for books; the second is a love for artworks (paintings, installations, architectures, essays, etc.); the third, the quality of encounters with creators and people working in culture; and finally the unique passion for designing and creating the "object" of a book. Another impetus behind this whole endeavor is the desire to transmit knowledge and leave a trace in the (already) long but never-ending history of art (books). In other words, to provide a platform where artists, architects, designers, thinkers, collectors and master craftsmen can express themselves alongside people working in publication and distribution.

This publishing house is aimed at all those who love, study, teach and work in the field of "Fine Arts" and the symbolic thinking which accompanies it, with a particular focus on architecture, art and design. We target the world of contemporary creation, yet never refrain from touching on major figures or historical movements.

Associated with **Paris Musées** for distribution and circulation, we can guarantee the value of your works and offer excellent sales opportunities. To become a major player in the market of "coffee table books", monografik éditions has formed partnerships with *art press* (<http://www.artpress.com>).

Monografik éditions is the partner of the ShowOffParis 2006 (Art fair while FIAC06) : Espace Pierre Cardin - Champs Elysées - Paris, <http://www.showoffparis.com>

New books

Camera Architectura / Gabor ösz

Around Us / Sabine Delcour

Architecture & végétation - Hybrid living spaces / RozO architectes

The Art of Chinese Style - Interior Design

Low Commotion / Olivier Dollinger

Studio / Guillaume Leblon

Samaran 2 / Ultralab

Supermariomerzbaumgarten - Drawings & Paintings / p. Nicolas Ledoux

ShowOffParis - The Book

monografik éditions

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Biography of the editors

Katia Anguelova

Born in Bulgaria, art critic and independent curator based in Milan.

After studying history of art and cultural theory at Sofia's University in Bulgaria, Katia Anguelova did her master at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where she achieved a thesis on Christo, ephemeral art and the tripartite relationship between artists, critics and viewers. She has been responsible for the prospective of East Europ for the Biennial europea delle riviste culturali, in Genoa, July 2001. She worked for the publishing house Skira for Mimmo Rotella's catalog and later for the documentation center for contemporary arts : Via Farini, based in Milan. She was part of the curatorial training program of the Magasin, Grenoble, for the year 2003-2004 and collaborated with the curatorial department of the Museum Castello di Rivoli, Turin. Katia Anguelova is currently curator of the Isola Art Center in Milan.

Exhibitions :

2006 *En parallèle/ In parallelo MIGRE*, exchange project between the art schools of Miland and Grenoble, at Careof, Milan / Centre Culturel français, Milan ; *Isola Space Sharing*, Isola Art&Community Center, Milan ; *Video Invitational#2*, viafarini ; *Royal Wedding Expanded*, Console, apartment-gallery, Paris ; *Beautiful Nature, Spazi della rappresentazione della natura*, Castel San Pietro terme (BO); *Stazione Livorno*, touristic guide of the city of Livorno through the intervention of artists, architects, town planners...

2005-*Con altri occhi. La città vista dai giovani artisti*, Palazzo della Ragione, Milano; *September Back Up*, Isola Art Center, Milan; *Stazione Isola*, ongoing project; *Multiplo_1, Daily endless multiple made recyclable*, NOGallery; *Conflitto e conflitti a Villa (poco) Serena*, Synapser # 4 2004; *Oris Hiatus*, solo show of Alessandra Cassinelli, Careof; *Royal wedding*, Mamco, Geneva; *Qui. New Release -Percorsi, progetti e pensiero della nuova generazione di critici e curatori italiani*, GaMeC di Bergamo fra i segnalatori di premio *Furla per l'arte. Quinta edizione 2005/ 2003-La gara dei video*, Pianissimo, Milan, SaloneArredoUrbano.

Albane Duvillier

Independent curator based in Paris.

Born in Paris en 1978, Albane Duvillier is mainly focusing on relationships between architecture and contemporary art, with a stronger interest towards the return of minimal art forms or conceptual attitudes. These researches embody various forms : exhibitions, reviews or essays published in magazines such as : Archistorm, Hors d'œuvre...

After studying history of art and sociology, Albane Duvillier worked in an alternative space in Paris : Immanence, before joining the curatorial training program of the School of the Magasin in Grenoble for the year 2003-2004.

She spent later a few months in New York, working in the film & video department run by Chrissie Iles at the Whitney Museum on the occasion of the *Robert Smithson* retrospective, while working in the same time at an alternative space : Participant Inc.

Exhibitions : May 2006, *Film-performances* by the filmmaker Phi Lee Lam based in New-York during a collective show : *Domaine Public* conceived by Cannelle Tanc & Frédéric Vincent, Immanence, Paris. April 2006, *Royal Wedding expanded* produced by the Session13 & Muriel Colin-Barrand, Console, apartment - gallery, Paris, with the works of : Julien Audebert, Philippe Million, Yann Sérandour, Julien Crépieux, Ottoanna, a selection of artists' books and a video and film projection : la Séance. June - September 2004, *Royal Wedding*, Mamco, Geneva.

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