

EPHEMERAL ARTS CONNECTION_ 7-18 september 2011



Theoretical frame

Ephemeral

Everything is ephemeral, because everything is subjected to the flow and transformation of the life. Buildings, all forms of artworks, sculptures, paintings, music, theater, movies ... The ephemeral is conceived as the link between the contemporary arts. Its transformative performance is related to the transformation of materials, their origins, application, cycle of life, death, recycling ... the ephemeral is able to be a new experimental paradigm for sustainable development.

Arts' connection

The value of the interaction between arts is strongly related to the dialogue between cultures. We do not need selective and rigid categories of arts and of cultures and we want to explore the richness of the combined value of arts and cultures working together. They'll operate simultaneously, they won't have limits or boundaries and they'll cooperate at a new equal culture of making. On the footsteps of Watermill Center Laboratory founded by Bob Wilson, we learn the miraculous developing of global network transcending age, experience, social, religious and cultural backgrounds.

In Sicily

The capitalist model whose center of gravity is in the U.S. and in the northern hemisphere, has generated a resources' depauperation. A model that has transformed "Europe as a territorial zipper and the Mediterranean area as a simple connector. The crisis we are passing through is not just economic or productive and social but is, overall, the crisis of a cultural system and of a consequential planned system for the future [...] The challenge in front of us, is to oppose to the mad core of the turbo-capitalism that has produced a flat and always similar architecture and transgenic cities [...] the strength of a responsible and networking planning of the Mediterranean area. [...] From South as main centre of the project and from Sicily it radiates a powerful energy of renewal. [...] will be entirely involved in the "project for the future" that the Mediterranean communities are willing to accomplish, in a renewed pact between the city and the territory, the environment and the landscape." (Maurizio Carta, Mediterraneo_Liquid Project). We can build a new development's model, with new values. Sicily (and South) is taken as the hub of a new art's development, the nerve center of economic, politic, social and creative growth. It has its roots in a meeting of cultures. The human intervention on nature has produced great modifications of the landscape, producing many complex territorial systems. They are signs of a collective memory that are waiting a new definition and meaning in the sicilian landscape.

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Ephemeral Arts Connection_2nd International Workshop in Sicily

After the important results obtained with the first edition happened on September 2010 we want to consolidate the image of Marsala as a laboratory of contemporary arts and to expand the network of international and local partnerships and collaborations applied to the territorial resources.

Art is a valuable tool to widespread educational work in the territory. The goal is to create a local awareness of the available wealth (in terms of land resources, human and historical ones, of knowledge, flavors and colors), in current and future generations, which are enriched through art, through processes of contamination of creativity between local and international talents and respecting of territorial resources in a sustainable way.

The message of the Ephemeral Arts Connection 2011 is to propose alternative models for the use of local natural resources. This logic is diametrically opposed to the one prevailing nowadays of super-exploitation of the land resources and cultural consumption. This approach has led us to the worst international economic crisis since the second world war and to the abandonment and the depletion of our resources, often making them unable to create wealth and to promote the creativity of new generations.

Output

We will build an "art object" inside a quarry.

We'll search together for materials, techniques and construction methods to achieve the final installation. All 30 participants will have the opportunity to cooperate in building a unique work. It will be made up of their own artistic contributions and it will live through their various simultaneous performances.

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Laboratory's Place

The workshop will take place in a quarry used for the extraction of *tufo* (calcarenitic stone), which is part of a widespread area in the city-territory of Marsala. The quarry will be part and scenario of the ephemeral installation. The interior of the quarry will also host the laboratory of the creative team work.

Quarry system

The extraction of the calcarenitic stone (*tufo*) produces a tangible sign into the territory. It defined huge underground spaces that characterize the geological heritage of Marsala landscape.

The *tufo* is very used in the construction of buildings (figurative walls, foundations, structure of the arches). It is a material highly distinctive in area of Marsala and generally in Sicily.

The *tufo* quarries characterize a wide area of Marsala territory and have as main focus the quarter of *Santo Padre delle Perriere*. They are interconnected and related to each other.

The "empty of matter" generate places "full of content" in the territory.

The historical record of abandoned quarries becomes a strong signal of productive activities, characteristic of the city; it's a memory of human intervention on nature, natural scene to safeguard and to improve, thinking and proposing alternative uses and enjoyment of them.

The workshop will work from the reflection on the modification of landscape concept and of its resources, on men intervention as a producer of high spatial concentration of events that give rise to changes in urban and regional landscape of great importance.

The environmental awareness of the value acquired as a common good, the projection for future sustainable scenarios generates the possibility to define a "new countryside" through the composite contribution of the arts.

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Materials

Light-material is a combination that acquires great importance in this context. For this reason, light will surely be a fundamental material in the project of space. Each quarry has strong spatial qualities. They are reminiscent of Chillida sculptures and the signs of the cutting machines help to add quality in the form of *tufo*'s block statement. This last aspect defines a rule for building the space for material extraction. The tutors of the workshop and its participants will be asked to project these qualities in the future by imagining new uses for these beautiful places.

Parametric Design

The extraction process of *tufo* from the ground creates and produces the construction of landscape and architectural spaces represented by *tufo* quarries. The *tufo* quarry is a complex three-dimensional structure, whose shape is determined by some very precise parameters related to the operative technique used for the extraction, such as the size of the *tufo* block, the specific machines employed for the excavation and the removal of the blocks and the structural logic to define stable underground spaces. For these reasons, it will be essential to develop a careful analysis of the space enclosed in the hollow and to define the project of the installation that will be built in real scale by the participants, in close connection with the spatial configuration of the quarry and the related performance.

Digital Tools

To ensure a precise analysis of the *status quo* of the project site (the quarry) and lead to the design of a coherent artistic object, as was done in the Ephemeral 2010 first edition, it is essential to use appropriate digital tools. We will use for example, Rhino 4.0, Grasshopper for Rhino, 3D Studio Max, Autodesk Ecotect Analysis, Maya.

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To participate

The workshop invites all the people interested to express their creativity, sensitive to the themes proposed (scientists, engineers, architects, designers, artists, photographers, dancers, musicians, painters, geologists, botanists ... students).

Thirty people will be selected to attend the workshop, through the evaluation of the curriculum delivered.

The knowledge of English language is required.

DEADLINE

28 june 2011

Send to ephemeraleurope2011@gmail.com: a portfolio A3 containing no more than 5 pages A3 with sketches, drawings, music, dance, photos, paintings and others ... add to a page in which is explained the motives to participate at the Ephemeral Arts Connection 2011 - 2nd International Workshop in Sicily.

5 july 2011

Communication by the jury of the 30 participants selected.

30 july 2011

Deadline for the iscription to the Ephemeral Arts Connection 2011 - 2nd International Workshop in Sicily.

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Progressive Program

September 7

6,00 pm: Welcome by the Mayor of Marsala Renzo Carini at the conference hall of the Complesso monumentale di S. Pietro.

Introduction lecture by Francesco Ducato, Director of Stardust*.

Speakers: Ignasi Pérez Arnal, director of Elisava, School of Design and Engineering of Barcelona (University of Pompeu Fabra); Giuseppe Volpe, administrator of Eures Group S.r.l. – Supporter of Piano Strategico di Marsala.

September 8

9.00 am: Visit to the historical centre of Marsala, guided by the architect Serena Del Puglia/Stardust*.

Visit to the Archeological Park of Marsala, guided by Dt. Maria Luisa Famà, Director of the Servizio Parco Archeologico e Ambientale (guide to be confirmed).

3.00 pm: Visit to Marsala underground, guided by the architect Nicola Sciacca.

September 9

9.00 am: Visit to the Quarries of Cusa and to the temples of Selinunte, guided by Stardust* Team.

6.00 pm: Visit to the quarry of Caseificio Impiccichè - Vivai Zichittella.

8.00 pm: Dinner offered to the participants by Caseificio Impiccichè.

September 10

9.00 am: Visit to the quarry of Ditta Giacomo Verdone, C. da Ventriski 95/D.

Meeting with local craftsmen specialists. Explanation of production processes and craftsmanship.

3.00 pm: Laboratory in the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

September 11

9.00 am: Visit to the *Cave Bianche* Hotel of Favignana, an example of reuse.

3.00 pm: Free time in the afternoon.

7.00 pm: Return to Marsala.

September 12

9.00 am: Organization of the works at the Quarry Lab "Ephemeral 2011".

Lectures by the tutors of the workshop.

3.00 pm: Laboratory into the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

September 13

9.00 am: Lecture by a geologist.

11.00 am: Lecture by an art critic.

3.00 pm: Laboratory in the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

September 14

9.00 am: Lecture by a speleologist.

11.00 am: Lecture by a sculptor.

3.00 pm: Laboratory in the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

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September 15

9.00 pm: Laboratory in the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

September 16

9.00 pm: Laboratory in the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

September 17

9.00 am: Construction of the stand for the final performance and of the 'art object' by the participants.

6.00 pm: Ephemeral Arts Connection 2011 show in the Quarry "Ephemeral 2011".

September 18

9.00 am: General final meeting at the Cava "Ephemeral 2011" to imagine together the next edition of the workshop.