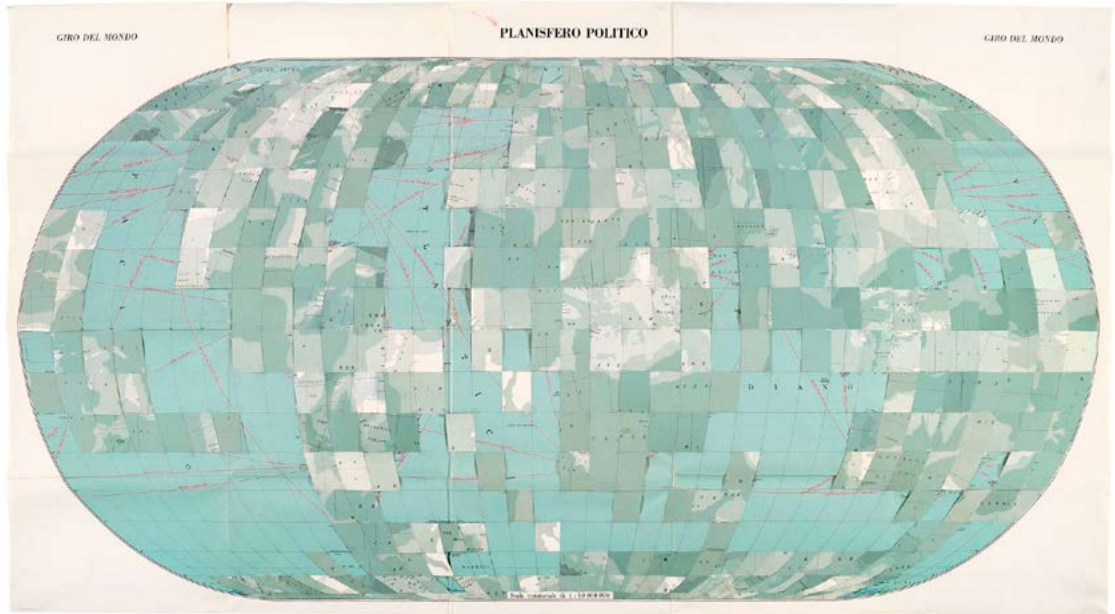


Imaginaries of the Sea

(working syllabus in progress)

FLOATS, Samos, Greece, June 2019

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G.Vendrame, Planisfero Politico, 2017, collage 120x90 cm

This studio explores alternative imaginaries to the current notion of citizenship and belonging, by looking at citizenship not from a “terra-centric” perspective, but rather from an offshore, maritime and pelagic one. Citizenship is a notion traditionally/ historically/ connected to the concepts of roots and land. The ways through which we are granted citizenship today are: *ius sanguinis*, right of the blood, via our ancestors (roots) and the *ius soli*: right of the soil, so the place where we were born. In opposition to this solidity and fixity of the land in the studio we will juxtapose materials and elements which have a more unstable character, in this case water. Water adapts and changes state of matter, it freezes and evaporates. Oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, swamps, etc are uncertain, unstable, ever-changing, moving environments. The studio looks at these sites as circular and interconnected bodies, which can create alliances and networks of solidarity between beings and places that are far apart and /or in friction with each other. We will learn from the sea and we will borrow from it. The studio will lead to the formulation of alternative imaginaries through the production of artistic artefacts, performative gestures and audio-video storytelling.

A. Shachar, *Birthright Lottery: Citizenship and Global Inequality*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, (2009)

P. Linebaugh, M. Rediker, *Many heads of Hydra: sailors, slaves, commoners, and the hidden history of the revolutionary Atlantic*, Verso Book, 2012 (first publication in 2000)

E. Glissant, *Poetics of Relation*, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press, 1997

A. Dunne and F. Raby, *Speculative Everything: Design, Fiction, and Social Dreaming*, The MIT Press, 2013

Participants will work individually and in groups researching and experimenting with different topics:

1) State of Matter - experimenting with water materiality



Francis Alÿs - Paradox of Praxis I (Sometimes Making Something Leads to Nothing), Mexico City, 1997

As an explorative exercise participants will experiment with the different states of matter of water: freezing, melting, evaporating. They will be invited in the making, performing and recording of a small scale object which embodies the phase change.

T. Ingold, *Materials against materiality*, Archaeological dialogues, 2007 works:

Francis Alÿs – *Paradox of Praxis I (Sometimes Making Something Leads to Nothing)*, Mexico City, 1997

2) Moving Offshore

Participants will look into different examples (existing and speculative) of being offshore: Seasteading institute (floating city in international waters), Oil Rocks (world's first offshore oil extraction site in the Caspian sea), the micronation: Isola delle Rose as well as examples of artistic endeavors offshore.

Silicon Valley is letting go of its techie island fantasies, Kyle Denuccio, Wired, May 2015, <https://www.wired.com/2015/05/silicon-valley-letting-go-techie-island-fantasies/> works, exhibitions, symposium:

Current of Contemporary Art, The Play, 1969

Radical Seafaring, exhibition at Parrish Art Museum, 2016

<https://parrishart.org/exhibitions/radical-seafaring/>

The Right to the Seas – International Symposium, hosted by geheimagentur / ITI-Germany / Hamburg Port Hydrarchy, May 2017 : <http://www.geheimagentur.net/the-right-to-the-seas-international-symposium/>

Colomboscope, SEA CHANGE: As Tides Turn, festival curated by Natasha Ginwala <https://www.colomboscope.lk/>



Current of Contemporary Art, The Play, 1969

3) Seamen Clubs - Alliances of the sea ashore

Participants will visit a local seamen club to engage in conversations with seafarers, seamen club volunteers and employers, in order to gain direct knowledge on the seafarer's world and to analyse and reflect on its spatial ashore infrastructures. Can we imagine these spaces as transnational networked alliances? What can we learn from these spaces?

In most harbours in the world there is at least a seamen club. Seamen clubs and missions to seafarers are mainly non profit organisations which offer services and assistance to seafarers: internet and phone access, supermarket, counselling and small entertainment. Seafarers can access these places during shore leaves. According to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) this right is at stake by the shipping industry demand of time saving procedure and security measures at port, which on the one hand offer less time to seafarers to stay on shore, and on the other hand, diminishes the chances for sailors to reach the shores, due to visa restrictions and border controls. Considering that nearly 90% of the goods we use and consume are transported by sea, our everyday lives are very much dependent on these invisible and isolated bodies.

R. George, *Ninety Percent of Everything: Inside Shipping, the Invisible Industry that Puts Clothes on Your Back, Gas in Your Car, and Food on Your Plate*, 2013

works:

geheimagentur, *Ports: From the right to sea*, Performance at the MS Stubnitz, 2017

geheimagentur, *International shore connection*, video



Shore Leaves, G. Vendrame, P. Patelli, G. Squillacciotti, double channel installation, 2018

4) Nautical Language

Participants will dig into a collection of nautical expressions, analysing and reflecting critically on the origins of current everyday expressions and of the neglected ones. The purpose is to acknowledge our dependence from the sea and its hidden centrality in everyday language. Participants will be invited in creating and performing surreal dialogues using nautical expressions.

<http://see-the-sea.org/nautical/naut-body.htm>

M. Rediker, *Outlaws of the Atlantic: Sailors, Pirates, and Motley Crews in the Age of Sail*, Beacon press, 2014 (chapter one: The Sailor's Yarn)

M.P. Sanleandro, *A Study of Nautical Terms and Their Use in Everyday Language*, Facultat de Traducció i Interpretació Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 2014-15

works:

Nicoline van Harskamp, *Englishes* (2014-16)

5) Maps of the Sea

Geopolitical maps represent territories, borders and different power structures, sometimes inducing into "cartographic anxiety". Participants will be exposed to different cartographic representations of the sea: Marshall Islands stick chart, "Marine Traffic" charts, physiographic map (Marie Tharp: map the Atlantic Ocean floor), maritime maps, world maps, etc. After observing and reflecting different maps participants will be invited to question these artefacts and to propose, create and/or alternative, subjective, poetical maps (not necessarily 2D) which could open and visualize a future imaginary of the sea.

F. Farinelli, *Crisi della ragione cartografica*, Einaudi, 2009

T. Reinertsen Berg, *Theater of the World: The Maps that Made History*, Little, Brown and Company, 2018

A.M. Brighenti, *Lines, barred lines. Movement, territory and the law*, International Journal of Law in Context, Cambridge University Press, (2010)

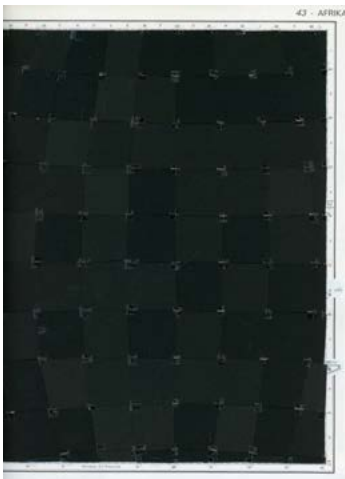
works:

Studio folder, *Italian Limes*, 2014-2018

Irene Stracuzzi, *The Legal Status of Ice*, 2017

Giuditta Vendrame, *Planisfero Politico*, 2017

Giuditta Vendrame, *Universal maps*, 2018-19



Universal map, G. Vendrame, collage, 2018