

ACT 33: Matteo Guidi

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– Giuliana Racco,

The Artist and the Stone

11.11.2015 – 23.01.2016



Still of the video *Leish la'a? (Why Not?)*, 2015. HD video colour, 32'

ACT 33: Matteo Guidi – Giuliana Racco, *The Artist and the Stone* presents the latest work co-developed by the two artists.

Conceived in January 2014, the process-based piece continues the artists' investigation into the ways people bypass restrictions and limitations in their daily lives, moving through systems imposed on them. *The Artist and the Stone* speaks of mobility, citizenship, desire and constraint by negotiating the twofold movement of a subject (a performance artist) and an object (a 22-tonne block of stone) from Hebron (West Bank) to Barcelona.

The work originates from *In Between Camps* (2012), a two-day walk-piece realized in Palestine, following the ground-embedded stone traces of an ancient Roman aqueduct, built to carry water from a Herodian pool (located in the Hebron area) to the ancient city of Jerusalem. The simple daily practice of 'taking a stroll' was extended over an expansive and contended territory as an immersive experience concerning geography, history and politics. This search for the ruins from a prior era of colonization was interrupted by the appearance of a giant quarry, literally carving out all layers of and references to geography and history.

The Artist and the Stone emerged one year later, when a colleague – Ibrahim Jawabreh an artist and refugee by birth – expressed his desire to travel from Palestine to Europe in order to develop his artistic practice. Giuliana Racco and Matteo Guidi decided to transform the tension between desire and constraint, manifest in this simple request, by contrasting the process of his movement with that of an object with the same origin: the stone. From its very conception, *The Artist and the*

Stone has catalysed exhibitions, workshops, round tables and pedagogical activities.

For *Act 33* in Nivell Zero, Giuliana Racco and Matteo Guidi propose a closing exhibition related to a central phase of the project: the completion of both movements. Starting with *In Between Camps*, Nivell Zero will host a selection of works tracing the core themes of *context*, *movement*, *negotiation* and *desire*, giving form to distinct moments of a process that managed to move across strict geo-political limits, while keeping, to this day, its future open.

Matteo Guidi (Cesena, Italy, 1978) is an artist and anthropologist based in Barcelona, working with photography, video and installation.

Giuliana Racco (Toronto, Canada, 1976) is a visual artist whose work moves through drawing, photography, video and installation.

Together **Matteo Guidi – Giuliana Racco** operate at the intersection of art and anthropology, investigating complex contexts of more or less closed structures, i.e. high security prisons, factories, and, most recently, refugee camps. Their practices look into the ways individuals or groups manage their own movements through strongly defined systems which tend to objectify them and even induce forms of self-restraint. Reflecting on unpredictable methods of daily resistance sparked by a combination of simplicity and ingenuity, they focus on contexts that are considered marginal or exceptional but, in reality, anticipate more common scenarios.

Their work has been exhibited at *Disseny Hub* and *Centre d'Arts Santa Mònica*, Barcelona (E), *Centro Cultural de España*, Montevideo (UY), *Kunstuniversität Linz* (A), *Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Rijeka* and *Galerija SIZ Rijeka*, (HR), *Akademie der Künste der Welt* Cologne (D), *International Academy Of Art Palestine*, Ramallah (PS), *Fotomuseum Winterthur* (CH), *SESC de Artes – Mediterrane São Paulo* (BR), *Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain* Strasbourg (FR), and the *Center For Design Resarch & Education of Hanyang University* Kyunggido, Seoul (KR).

Curator: **Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio**

The single 22-tonne block of stone was cut into 12 pieces, which were then sent to two sites: half went to the Fundació Suñol and the other half were set up in Pla de Palau, a public space that was once the entrance gate for goods and people who arrived in medieval Barcelona by sea. The cut stone embodies the spatial and logistical limits and obstacles that had to be overcome to move the stone to both places. And the two locations—one inside, one outside—reflect the duality at the heart of the project: open/closed, movement/stagnation, acceptance/rejection, object/subject.

The 12 pieces of stone will remain at both sites until 23 January 2016.

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Fundació Suñol



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