

READYMADE SERIES

Enrico Malatesta – artist

Gaia Martino – curator



CONCEPT

Readymades series is a research project aimed to investigate bodies as agents with their own trajectories, propensities or tendencies. It is an attempt to explore the space of relation and dialogue of the individual and the impersonal, overcoming the dichotomy between the things and the beings. The “it” and the “us” give ways to the actants - sources of action either human or non- human that have sufficient coherence to produce effects and alter the course of events.

This is a practice-based project, ongoing in the frame of sound. The sonic is therefore the common ground of action, a mutual space built up in between of artist Enrico Malatesta and found out metal objects. During the last year, he has collected things from an old iron warehouse in Cesena, Italy. He started to work along with, calling these objects readymades:

Walking among piles of metal waste, seeking, I was looking for objects with a direct and intense potential to produce interesting sounds, due to their explicit affordances, ways of react to simple impulses while creating unpredictable conditions of movements and sounds. Very soon, I ventured into how hazy is their current position in human history, from the perspective of use as work tools. Through the lens of human beings - and human history – all of them are not clearly located. As matter of fact, they are too much eroded to let us recognize their original role within the productive system of persons and objects. Nevertheless, they are not broken enough to be considered “junk” or “fragments”. They hold unexpressed chances to outline different paths in progress. They can be agents able to disclose potentialities of a way of being, far away from that one belonging to the instruments I’m personally used to.

They are strangers and so they will remain.

The entire project is an attempt to accord regard to the quality of a world placed outside of me: things, with their inner corruptive and generative processes. I can relate them engaging my actions to disclose their movement and sonic answers. The sound therefore plays a very specific role: it results as consequence of the actants in context and it’s always under construction, out of a negotiation between the objects and me in our reciprocal activities.

The sound is the very space that I share with the object, it is our autonomous zone of connection.

AUTONOMOUS ZONE OF CONNECTION

Readymade series doesn’t aim at producing sound-works, but it’s a mise en place to investigate the vitality of collected objects in relation to the person, and their potential to move and create sounds events. The core of the project then focuses on the space of interaction, neither subjects nor results. It is a common autonomous zone of connection, first discussing the linearity of the relationship is between human/non-human.

What is the world experienced from the difference instead than from the identity? In order to maintain differences, we focus on the encounter, experience of the reality beginning from the plural. In the space created by this estrangement, a vital materiality can start to take shape. Here is not the ontology but the duration and the process to be in count. It's the intimate and the movement, the reality regenerated by the reciprocal vitality, position by position, word by word.

WRITING AS DWELLING

A further part of the project consists of texts, as medium chosen for question and inform the artistic research. Writing is not conceived as documentation, rather it is an additional layer of experiencing the relational space in the estrangement. In this stage, the curator Gaia Martino is involved; authorial texts or external contributions record and report the space of autonomous zone of connection, emerging the dwelling of it: artist - object - events - place - objects - people - materials - place - dynamics - sounds.

As individuals, we are not representations but knots resulting from the kaleidoscope of place- specific relations, always growing up and learning up from the surrounding. According to Tim Ingold, the perspective of dwelling is basic to understand any actions. It demands attentiveness which situates the practitioner, right from the start, in the context of an active engagement with the elements of the surrounding. Nevertheless dwelling is not a mere capacity of accomplish a sequence of actions, because it is a feature belonging to the entire set of relations among the actants in place. To construct a narrative, one must already dwell and, in the dwelling, enter into relationships with its constituents, both human and non-human. The writing is oriented therefore to act - that is dwelling - in between of the autonomous zone of connection into a specific place.

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The project relates first with the capacity of any body - human/non human - for activity and responsiveness. It encourages then the engagement with the vibrant matters, resonating with an ecological attitude. It is an attempt thereby to induce awareness to the aesthetic-affective openness to material vitality, through a practical and theoretical approach: the acting is the listening is the playing is the dwelling is the relating is the writing.

The final result will be a publication. Our purpose is to develop the written stage of the project dwelling the autonomous zone of connection within a specific place able to welcome the complexity and fragility of positions and durations. The intention is to open this space to other individuals through practical workshops, informal lectures and shared experiences, with the aim to let the otherness act and transform this space. Furthermore, in dwelling the complex dynamics of the residency and the Readymade series in the meanwhile, artist and curator will write texts or will involve external contributions. The project responds to the challenge of using the writing to describe without erasing the independence of original medium (sound), of actants (persons, objects) and of place.

READYMADE SERIES #1 – METAL BOOK

appearances

– **Errant Sound – Berlin**

Workshop, Public artist talk and performance realized by Enrico Malatesta and curated by Gaia Martino for Errant Sound, Berlin DE (March 2018)

– **XING** at RAUM, Bologna IT (December 2017)

– **KunstenFestivalDesArts** - Before the Codes “*A Night Of Thinking Through Senses*” Bruxelles BE (May 2017)

– **CAREOF** – Fabbrica del Vapore, Milano IT (April 2017)