PER GRAZIA RICEVUTA (PGR): ON SITE-SPECIFIC ART AND PLURAL READINGS OF PLACE

Claudia Passeri

Claudia Passeri creates artworks that are intimate and ambiguous in relation to the environment in which they are produced. They question our perception of place and space and, depending on site and context, her pieces take on different social, political and environmental connotations. With a hint of irony, her research has a neo-romantic dimension that aims to reveal the mechanisms that activate creation and challenge our views on the world. The forms and materials vary in function of the theme.

From an Italian immigrant family, her practice maintains an ambivalent relationship with her origins, shaped by the shifting prominence of geographical, political, linguistic and social boundaries, and considers how such frameworks influence the ways place is perceived, negotiated and constructed. Rather than imposing fixed narratives, Passeri operates through subtle interventions that draw attention to the historical, cultural and symbolic layers embedded within a given setting.

Passeri's work also unfolds across collective artistic and curatorial endeavours in direct dialogue with the communities she engages with. Her collaborations with artists and researchers are central to her practice.

In her recent works, she focused on the traditions and belief systems of central Italy, examining how they persist, adapt or resurface within contemporary contexts. Engaging with vernacular knowledge, everyday rituals and oral stories, she approaches them not as static inheritances but as dynamic elements continuously reshaped by present conditions. Through this process, she seeks to move beyond nostalgic or folkloric representations, opening alternative readings of those cultural forms and offering a multiplicity of ways in which a place can be experienced, narrated and reimagined – as in *Prima Figlia Femmina* (Nosbaum Reding Projects), *Rurale Brutale* (Konschthal Esch), and PGR, a monumental site-specific sculpture in Belval conceived as a homage to exploited nature and the workers of the steel industry.

CLAUDIA PASSERI lives and works between Luxembourg and Italy. She studied set design in Bologna and photography in Brussels and Rome. She founded the curatorial projects Agence Borderline and Common Wealth. She received the Edward Steichen Award Luxembourg, which led to a residency at ISCP in New York, the Focuna Grant, which led to a research residency at the Darling Foundry in Montreal, and the Bert-Theis Grant, which enabled her to create an artist residency in Umbria. Her work has been exhibited at, among others, Mudam, Casino Luxembourg, BOZAR, the Art Centers of Dudelange, the Rencontres de la Photographie in Arles and the Konschthal in Esch-sur-Alzette.

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PGR (Per Grazia Ricevuta), 2022. Loop - down the hills across the land, curator Anna Loporcaro, Belvaux (L). Commune de Sanem, Esch 2022 - Capitale européenne de la Culture. Photo : Patty Neu