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Viafarini-In-Residence
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Dear Patrizia Brusarosco and Milovan Farronato,

Thank you again for your kind invitation to be an artist in residence at Viafarini. For myself personally, and for the work I produce, this kind of opportunity is invaluable. I recently moved to Paris for an extended period of time and the impact on my work and career has been significant. I thrive in these situations and look forward to everything that will come from experiencing the Italian art scene, the city of Milan, and your hospitality.

During the residency I will continue my development and exploration of collage. Most recently my work has dealt with the re-construction of natural and man-made objects from separately photographed components, using interventions of ink, gouache and watercolour to create striking 'cinematic' convergences of light, shadow, and depth. I have also been experimenting with the suspension of photographic images in painted colour fields, as well as using a photocopier as a way of creating uniformity of time and place. Even the single film frame has been used as an object that can be liberated from its continuum and reframed. The borders of the images in my collages are often left intact to create a deliberate sense of frontiers and the unseen; the limits of objectivity. These strategies are shared with my films and photographs using subtle, predominantly analogue, techniques to shift the viewers' perceptions and understanding of the image. The mediums and materials intentionally bleed into one another.

Although I have never visited Milan, I am aware that it is often characterized by a collision of classical and modern sensibilities. This tension, or rather this co-existence, is something I have been trying to create in my work. The ideas of travel, exile and nomadism are at the heart of my practice, as is the attempt to use the raw materials I gather to make new narrative and aesthetic sense of these experiences; the willful dissolution, lack of, fluidity, or reformulation, of identity. Superficial affiliations are dismantled by using collage and spontaneous "field reporting" techniques as methods of tapping into the disruptive elements of psyche (the subconscious, the uncanny, sexuality, liminality), unorthodox political stances (anarchism, cult mentality) and affinities with certain art movements (Beat, Symbolism, Pictorialism, punk), in an attempt to find core beliefs that reside outside of consensus-derived histories (in favour of the persistence of subcultures and the so called underground).

Because I work in a variety of mediums, I am very curious to know what resources could be made available to me. Over the course of the three months I would like to embark on the following:

- collages based on photographs taken in Milan, and Italy generally, as well as from found sources (from local fleamarkets, bookstores, local magazines, archives, etc.), to be embellished with ink, gouache and watercolour
- a super8 film as an abstract study of the city, most likely concentrating on the magnificent looking Cimitero Monumentale
- the use of film and video stills to create materials for an installation [please refer to *The Life to Come* (image #3) and *As Above/So Below* (image #10) as examples]
- as my work also contains spontaneous and intuitive aspects, it's likely that another strategy could emerge during the residency as well

To realise these projects I would need information about the availability of the following resources:

- your recommendations for professional art supply stores
- a reliable photographic studio who can print my photographs and film stills (digitally or otherwise)
- access to a photocopier, or the address of a good self-service photocopy shop
- a film lab or company able to develop and/or transfer super8 films to digital video tapes (I have my own camera and editing equipment). In the event that this last resource isn't available, I will use my video camera for the project, but will still compile super8 footage for later use

My strategies and practice are highly adaptable, and I'm grateful for whatever resources you can offer or suggest.

I can arrange my travel and arrival as soon as we confirm the dates, and I am available anytime through May - July. If you require any additional information I would be more than happy to provide it. Thank you, and looking forward to continuing our exchange.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Treleven