

Johanna Laitanen

Residency proposal for ViaFarini 2010

I would use the residency period of creating new work that deal with negotiations on landscape in the outskirts of a city, contemplating historical expedition material and contemporary artist's desire to explore/rediscover the 'displaced areas', the landscape of non-places presented in a state of ambiguity. I am interested to examine the parallels between the archive imagery of the historical voyages and the contemporary representations of postcard-like landscape reminiscent to mountain etc. scenery that in reality is man-made, abandoned wasteland. Rather than just decoding the representation of the borderline landscape and reconnecting its aesthetic and atmosphere to the historical 'counter' imagery, I would also like to unearth the motivation and rationale behind the artist.

I believe that it will likely to be in a form of film installation including: A film shot in a pseudo documentary style, letting the ephemeral, unlooked-for and commonplace happen inside the frame representing the generally non-fascinating landscape as fascinating similar to the historical expedition imagery. While dealing with the relationship between representation and what is represented, the film would also reveal the rather comical ways of the artist behind the film trying to maintain the rigorous approach and conceal his aspiration for capturing the 'perfect' landscape.

The possible residency would offer me a great opportunity to develop my practice and produce a new body of work in an interactive environment as well as refine the ways of displaying my work. I am particularly keen on exploring the library resources at the Art Center, hoping to expand my thinking of the exhibition layout and structure, to use the studios to experiment with different installation techniques and methods, ultimately be able to break down the conventional screen/projector dynamics, to engage the spectator by enhancing the story's impact appropriately.

mail 15/01/2010

Dear Giulio,

The project I proposed will initially require mainly the equipment for displaying the work like projector(s) and loudspeakers. I usually shoot my videowork with rented 16mm cinema film camera, and then use professional services for developing and postproduction (transferring film into digital form with some colour correction) I use my own computer and external harddrives for editing.

An other option for production, depending on the funding I will manage to find for it, would be renting a HD camrecorder to reduce the obvious costs of film. I would need some information where in Milan I could get hold of such services.

The proposed film to be done during the residency is still in a flux, I am scripting first draft of it and planning more of the structure and visuals. The work is being shot with either 16mm cinema camera or with a HD camrecorder in order to have detailed and tactile feel. The film would be around 10-15 minutes long and most likely multichannel. Please find some very initial test shots attached.

The interaction between the artists could be anything depending on the artists and their way of working of course, I would be more than happy to collaborate on for example a workshop, an artist talk/seminar/discussion or for example curating a screening of artists' film and video works that touch upon the subjects of the studio artists. I'm very open to different projects that could be realised during the residency.

I hope this was helpful, let me know if there is any further information you require.

Best wishes,

Johanna