

# SCREEN SPACE

5 - 21 November 2015

## Waiting for the accident to happen

Francis Alÿs, Meris Angioletti, Ivan Argote, Alice Cattaneo, Brice Dellsperger,  
Clorinde Durand, Chiara Fumai, Rà di Martino, Adrian Paci

Curated by Antonella Croci

The question of the archive is not a question of the past. It is not the question of a concept dealing with the past that might already be at our disposal. An archivable concept of the archive. It is a question of the future, the question of the future itself, the question of a response, of a promise, and of a responsibility for tomorrow. The archive, if we want to know what that will have meant, we will only know in times to come; not tomorrow, but in times to come. Later on, or perhaps never.

- Jacques Derrida, 'Archive Fever', 1995

Jacques Derrida analyses the validity of the archive in a series of lectures held in London between 1994 and 1995. Denying the existence of sources actually definable as primary sources, Derrida reminds us that History is based on stories told by men. An archive should therefore be constantly rearranged and expanded: it has to select and exclude at the same time: it shouldn't have a start or an end, but it is eternally subjected to interpretation.

*Waiting for the Accident to Happen* is a group show including works by nine artists, sourced from the Careof Video Archive and beyond, which dwell on the fragmentary nature of the archive. Starting from the validity of an archive, allegedly created as a rational, objective and exhaustive ensemble of primary sources, yet subjective due to the selection made by fewer individuals, the exhibited works question and play with the shifting borders between documentation, reality and fiction.

*Waiting for the Accident to Happen* forms part of an exchange between Careof (Milan) and Screen Space. In 2014, Screen Space co-directors Simone Hine and Kyle Weise presented the curated exhibition *Moving Pictures/Expanding Space* at Careof, and participated in the FDV residency program. In 2015 Screen Space is excited to host *Waiting for the Accident to Happen*, a return exhibition organised by Italian curator Antonella Croci, in collaboration with Careof.

Both exhibitions explore interpretations and legacies of the 'Archive', taking inspiration from Careof Video Archive hosted at DOCVA: Documentation Center for Visual Arts, which is co-organised by Careof and Via Farini.

## GROUND FLOOR

### 1. Brice Dellsperger

Body Double 2 - After 'Body Double' (Brian de Palma)  
1995  
film Hi8 transferred on DVD, colour, sound, 30"  
Courtesy of the artist and Air de Paris, Paris

Fascinated and seduced by the iconography of filmmakers such as Brian De Palma, Andrzej Zulawski, John Badham and Gus Van Sant, Brice Dellsperger, has produced in the last twenty years numerous videos, remakes of cult movies, in which he plays on the double sides of the visual arts: he is the artist, the actor, the spectator. The genre identity is manipulated by Dellsperger, who plays on sexual ambiguity. He recreates iconic scenes and dialogues with banal effects, destroying the fiction. Destabilising the conventions of the cinema by revealing and enjoying its artifice, the series titled Body Double alters the experience and the perception of the spectator, questioning the relationship between the spectator and the cinematographic experience on one hand, and the reality on the other.

### 3. Clorinde Durand

Naufrage  
2008  
video, 7'  
Production Le Fresnoy 2008 - part of Careof archive

Naufrage by Clorinde Durand presents a tragic scene in a clearly artificial context, playing with the perception of the visitor on the limits of the reality and the cinematographic reality. The emotions of the characters, deliberately omitted, are 'swallowed' by the surrounding environment - a simple office. The neutral tones, the exasperated movements in slow motions suspend the scene in an Hollywood-hysteria. The scene loses credibility in its construction, but gains in tragic gestures thanks to the gravitas of the sound. The inquietude in the spectator is originated by the feeling of contemplating the tragedy.

### 2. Francis Alÿs

If you are a Typical Spectator, What you are Really Doing is Waiting for the Accident to Happen  
Zócalo, Mexico City 1996  
video, 10'  
Courtesy of the artist

Francis Alÿs's works show journeys, characters wondering in towns: the artist plays with the city, and he acts as a flâneur: his interest in the daily gestures, human habits and social interactions meet the urban panorama. His videos invite the spectator to focus on unattended events, often banal, in which humour plays a central position. In If you are a Typical Spectator, What you are Really Doing is Waiting for the Accident to Happen, Alÿs shows the tortuous yet poetical journey of a bottle in the busiest square of the city: the camera follows the bottle until the accident happens.

### 4. Chiara Fumai

The girl with the blanket  
2008  
video, 4'04"  
Courtesy of the artist, A Palazzo Gallery, Brescia and Waterside Contemporary, London - part of Careof archive

"In August 2008 Chiara Fumai spent 31 days of imprisonment in Cell A1C1 of the Oostereiland Penitentiary of Hoorn. During her journey in Oostereiland the artist kept a secret correspondence with a mysterious man and produced some of her most important pieces, including a complex escape plan that would let her pass through the surveillance system in less than one hour. For the occasion Fumai spent most of her time sewing a 12 metre long escape rope, using fabric from the prison's curtains and clothes from her wardrobe, but at one point, the development of the project left her with nothing to wear besides a brown Indian blanket provided by her friend Fred Martin. The people of Hoorn will always remember her as The girl with the blanket".

### 5. Meris Angioletti

Il Rabbdomante  
2006  
video, 14'13"  
Courtesy of the artist - part of Careof archive

Meris Angioletti's work gleams his charm from the scientific imagination: it uses a specific language to generate suggestions, creating a continuous tension towards knowledge and contemplation. Her works underline that grey area where the scientific reflection and the attempt of an objective documentation flake off into tales and dreamlike images: something happens, yet it seems impossible to explain and define it. Il Rabbdomante is a great example of her practice: the video questions the ancient belief of the water diviners.

### 7. Rà di Martino

August 2008  
2009  
video, 5'  
Courtesy of the artist - part of Careof archive

August 2008 by Rà di Martino turns the decor of a belle époque villa into a tableau vivant in the style of the hollywood production of the 50s. Almost motionless, the actors sing the titles of the newspapers of August 2008. The anachronism originated by the inconvenient tension between what we see and what we hear creates a subtle humour. Di Martino realizes a friction, almost palpable, between the artificial scenery and the controlled and planned dialogue.

### 9. Alice Cattaneo

1 minute 42 seconds  
2007  
video, 1'42"  
Courtesy of the artist - part of Careof archive

In 1 minute 42 seconds Alice Cattaneo presents a series of unforeseen and poetical events that surprise the artist on a day in the countryside. Cattaneo plays with proportions and the real concept of distance: she interacts with a wire falling on her from the sky, she runs from a bucket of water, she jumps on some grass as if it was an obstacle. Her videos offer the same lightness that can be found in her sculptures. Small epiphanies, her works capture fleeting and unexpected circumstances. The irony, immediate, denotes an original approach in her artistic production.

## FIRST FLOOR

### 6. Adrian Paci

Albanian Stories  
1997  
video, 7'  
Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano/New York - part of Careof archive

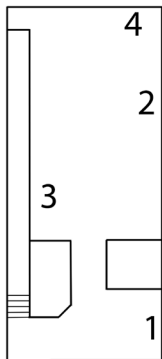
Adrian Paci is an Albanian artist based in Milan. He quit Albany after the fall of the Communism in 1991; his artistic production is built around the political tumultuousness of his land and of his life as an immigrant. Albanian Stories presents the three-year old daughter of Paci while she tells improvised tales on cows, cats, roosters, soldiers and 'international forces'. In this story, partially pretended, told by an innocent narrator, the fable turns into a message to expose the peculiarity and universality of the conflict: moreover, it is a reflection on how we perceive and understand the events.

### 8. Ivan Argote

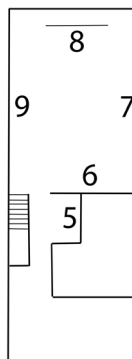
Sans titre (Paris)  
2010  
video, 4'59"  
Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Perrotin, Paris/New York/Hong Kong

Ivan Argote is fascinated by paradoxical situations, insignificant and meaningless in daily life: he recreates them in surreal installations involving videos, photographs, sculptures and performances. In his works, Argote shifts the attention on peculiar and uncanny situations, questioning the parameters of socially acceptable behaviours. Sans Titre (Paris) is part of a series of three videos shot in different cities: Paris, New York, Madrid.

Map - Ground Floor



Map - First Floor



**Antonella Croci** (b. 1985) is an Italian curator based in London. She holds a MA in History of Contemporary Art and another one in curating from the Sorbonne University, Paris. She co-curated the exhibitions *Echos* at the Musée Nissim de Camondo, part of the Arts Décoratifs museum in Paris (2011) and *Non è un paese per vecchi?* (*No country for old men?*) at Sala Dogana, Palazzo Ducale in Genoa (2013). In 2013 she won the Prizes for the Jury's Choice and Crowd Favorite for the virtual exhibition *I close my eyes in order to see*, presented on Kapsul, a platform created by the Kadist Foundation, San Francisco. In 2014 her proposal for a video exhibition won the concourse *Moving Pictures/Expanding Space*, an exchange between Careof (Milan) and Screen Space (Melbourne).

**Careof** is an Italian not-for-profit organization for the promotion of contemporary artistic research. Since 1987 it has encouraged cultural experimentation in all forms, with particular attention paid to young artists. Developing a dense teaching and exhibition program, documentation services on visual arts and residences for young creative artists, the organization is also an intermediary between artists, curators, critics and a non-specialized public.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication, available during the show.

Please email [info@screenspace.com](mailto:info@screenspace.com) for more information.



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