Performing Anthropology

MENTOR
Giulia Grechi

GUEST
Fiamma Montezemolo

DATES
15-19th June (deadline for application submission **15.05.2015)**

LANGUAGE
English

PARTICIPATION FEE
€ 570 (including accomodation and half-board)

TOPICS / TAGS
temporality, critical anthropology, contemporary art, archive, ethnographic museums, post-colonial museum, body, participation, identity, difference, migration, performing museology, museum as sense-scape

MODULE OUTLINE

Here are plates with no appetite.
And wedding rings, but the requited love
has been gone now for some three hundred years.
Here's a fan – where is the maiden's blush?
Here are swords – where is the ire?
Nor will the lute sound at the twilight hour.
Since eternity was out of stock,
ten thousand aging things have been amassed instead. (…)
The crown has outlasted the head.
The hand has lost out to the glove.
The right shoe has defeated the foot.
As for me, I am still alive, you see.
The battle with my dress still rages on.
It struggles, foolish thing, so stubbornly!
Determined to keep living when I'm gone!

Wislawa Szimborska, Museum, 1962

How, and on which premisses can we imagine a "post-colonial museum" or an "affective archive"? This contemporary entanglement will be explored through an analysis of the relationship between anthropology and contemporary arts, since the

experience of Ethnographic Surrealism in the 1930's and through the idea of "the artist as ethnographer" (Hal Foster). Rethinking the current relationship between anthropology and contemporary arts from different points of view, we will take into account artworks, performances, curatorial processes in contemporary art exhibitions and/or ethnographic museums, actions inside and outside the museum, experimentations on the construction of "othered" archives (affective or diasporic archives). The aim is to unmask the assumptions beneath our cultural understanding of key concepts like museum, archive, modernity, linked to a precise and not universal ideas of time, space, identity.

How to turn a museum from a *temple* for the conservation of Archives, History, Nation, Cultures as essential categories, into a site where to *activate dynamics*, trying to transform it into a critical, radically self-reflective space? Such transformation calls for an *ethical* stance – the museum as a *cultural form* – which is, in turn, extremely useful in building imagined communities. The challenge is to experiment with new methodologies, by conceiving these communities in a transnational, intercultural and transdisciplinary way.

The module attempts to envision the idea of a post-colonial museum yet to come – which might no longer be a "museum" – as a site where the strategies and processes of memory creation are strongly affective. A site activating the bodies and agency of its spectators, beyond co-action; a porous and strongly political space, an experimental laboratory for new forms of citizenship, for a different "community to come".

SCHEDULE
June 15th
morning
Guided tour to Cittadellarte, including the Pistoletto, Arte Povera collections and temporary exhibitions (curated by Luca Furlan)
afternoon
Workshop presentation and group presentation
Anthropology and Contemporary Art from Ethnographic Surrealism to the present (Case study: The Museum of European Normality)
Collective discussion
Participant presentations

June 16th
morning
For a contemporary ethnographic museum: strategies of displaying in relation with contemporary art (Case study: The Ethnographic Museum of Neuchâtel, analysis of two exhibitions)
afternoon
Presentation of actions inside the Ethnographic Museum Pigorini in Rome (Crossing

Bodies and Impression d'Afrique)
Collective discussion

June 17th
morning
"Othered", affective, diasporic archives: contemporary artists working on the archives of modernity (case studies presentation)
afternoon
Screening (artists videos, focus on the archives of modernity)
Collective discussion

June 18th
morning
Presentation of the work of the contemporary artist and anthropologist Fiamma Montezemolo
afternoon
Meeting with Fiamma Montezemolo

June 19th
morning
Collective discussion
Group work towards drafting a "Manifesto", or an artistic/ curatorial/ design project focussing on the workshop's topics
afternoon
Group projects
evening
Party

REFERENCES
The mentor will prepare a reader for participants with key texts, some of which will be discussed during the week

Routes Agency
www.routesagency.com

web magazine roots§routes research on visual cultures
www.roots-routes.org

European Project MeLa - European Museums in an Age of Migrations
http://www.mela-project.eu

MeLa publications (free download)
http://www.mela-project.eu/publications

Arjiun Appadurai, Archive and Aspiration
http://pzwart3.wdka.hro.nl/mediawiki/images/c/ce/ArjunAppadurai_ArchiveandAspiration.pdf

MEN - Ethnographic Museum Neuchatel
http://www.men.ch/fr/accueil

Studio Azzurro
http://www.studioazzurro.com

Fiamma Montezemolo
http://www.fiammamontezemolo.com

MENTOR
BIOGRAPHY AND STATEMENT
Giulia Grechi holds a PhD in "Theory and social research" at the University La Sapienza (Rome, Italy). She was a research fellow at "L'Orientale" (Naples) since January 2015, as a member of the EU Project "MeLa - European Museums in the Age of Migrations", where she worked on the relation between museums, curatorial practices, anthropology and contemporary art. Her research interests include cultural anthropology, cultural and post-colonial studies, museography, contemporary art, embodiment and emotions as a field of knowledge's production. She teaches Cultural Anthropology at Naples' Fine Art Academy, Photography – social communication at the Fine Arts School of Brera (Milan, Italy), and Sociology of cultural processes at the European Institute of Design (IED) in Rome. She is editor-in-chief of the on-line journal *roots§routes – research on visual culture*. She is a member of *Routes Agency* - Cura *of contemporary arts*, a team of independent curators based in Rome.

PROJECTS (selection)

24-25 May 2013
Curator (as *Routes Agency* and in collaboration with the MeLa Project) of the event "Impression d'Afrique", performance of the contemporary dance company MK, and of the talk "Performing the Ethnographic Museum", at the National Prehistoric Ethnographic Museum Luigi Pigorini, Rome.
Speakers: Stefano Tomassini, Annalisa Piccirillo, Giulia Grechi, Rossana Macaluso, Viviana Gravano.
Web link: www.routesagency.com
http://www.pigorini.beniculturali.it

1-15 December 2012
Curator (as Routes Agency and in collaboration with the MeLa Project) of the event (exhibition, conference and performance) and chairman of the conference "Crossing Bodies –Postcolonial Imaginaries", at the National Prehistoric Ethnographic Museum

Luigi Pigorini, Rome.

Exhibition
Mauricio Lupini, "Observing Ethnography", 1996-1997
Massimiliano Di Franca, "Spazi Vocali", 2012

Conference
Presentation of the video "Traces", 2012, by the artist-anthropologist Fiamma Montezemolo Speakers: Iain Chambers, Lidia Curti, Viviana Gravano, Fiamma Montezemolo.

Performance
"Four Colonial Dances" of the contemporary dance company MK.

Web link: http://www.pigorini.beniculturali.it/archivio-mostre.html

October 2011 - January 2012
Curator (together with Viviana Gravano, Routes Agency, MAXXI B.A.S.E., and in collaboration with the MeLa Project) of the event (video exhibition) and chairman of the conference "Found in translation. Postcolonial Visions", at the MAXXI Museum, Rome

Reframing Indian identity - India: rinegoziare l'identità, 1 October 2011
Artists: Abhishek Hazra, Tejal Shah, Sarnath Banerjee, Pushpamala N.
Speakers: Shaul Bassi, Lidia Curti

Visualizing postcolonialism – Visioni postcoloniali, 26 November 2011
Artists: Isaac Julien, Kara Walker, Zineb Sedira
Speakers: Iain Chambers, Miguel Mellino

Post-colonial Italy? The Repressed Memory - Italia postcoloniale? La memoria rimossa, 21 January 2012
Artists: Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi
Speakers: Tarek Elhaik, Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi

Web link: http://www.routesagency.com/found-in-traslation

PUBLICATIONS (selection)

G. Grechi, 2015, *Crossing Bodies, Postcolonial Visions*, on: *Museum Multiplicities: Field Actions and Research by Design*, edited by Basso Peressut L., Colombo C., Postiglione G., Milano: Politecnico di Milano DPA, http://www.mela-project.eu/publications/1184

I. Chambers, G. Grechi, Nash M. (eds.), 2014, *The Ruined Archive*. Milano: Politecnico di

Milano DPA, http://www.mela-project.eu/publications/1173

G. Grechi, 2013, *What dust will rise? Il museo sotto assedio (o in esodo...)*, on "Visual Ethnography", vol. 2, n. 1, June 2013, pp. 27-55 | DOI: 10.12835/ve2013.1-0013| www.vejournal.org

G. Grechi, 2014, *What dust will rise? Toward a postcolonial sensitive museum*, on *The Ruined Archive*, edited by Iain Chambers, Giulia Grechi and Mark Nash, Milano: Politecnico di Milano DPA http://www.mela-project.eu/publications/1173

G. Grechi, 2013, *Counter-monument and anti-monument: the absolute impatience of a desire of memory*, on *Re-enacting the Past. Museography for Conflict Archaeology*, edited by Michela Bassanelli and Gennaro Postiglione, 288-305, Siracusa: Letteraventidue (texts: English/Italian)

G. Grechi, 2012, *The Museum of European Normality. Contemporary Art and the Visual Construction of European Identity*, on: *Cultural Memory, Migrating Modernities and Museum Practices*, edited by Beatrice Ferrara, 47-71. Milano: Politecnico di Milano DPA. http://www.mela-project.eu/publications/949

G. Grechi, 2012, *Il Museo della Normalità Europea. L'arte contemporanea e la costruzione visuale dell'identità europea"* in "Estetica. studi e ricerche". 1 (2012): 37-53 (edited by Iain Chambers, Lidia Curti, Alessandra De Angelis, Giulia Grechi)

G. Grechi, 2010, *La Rappresentazione Incorporata. Una etnografia del corpo tra stereotipi coloniali e arte contemporanea*, Catania and Roma: Bonanno Editore