

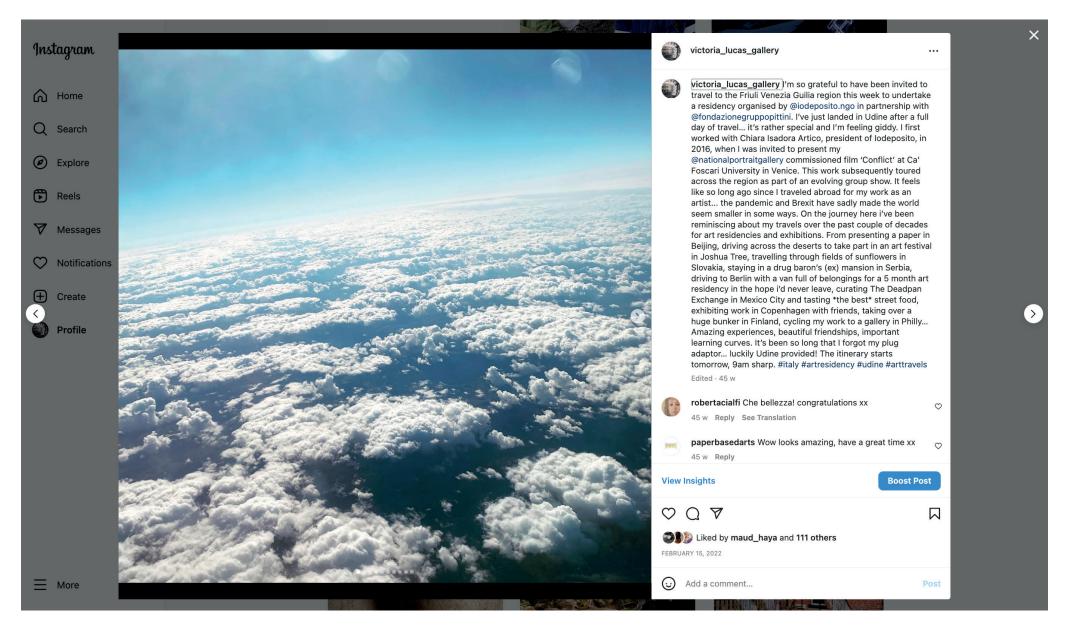
Introduction

Tesselate is a research project that began with an artist in residence programme in Italy, organised and funded by IoDeposito.

Founded in 2009 with the aim of contributing to the advancement of young people's welfare and cultural well-being through the media of arts, IoDeposito is a NGO that works with the aim of supporting young people's specific competencies related to visual arts projects, training and research in the fields of cultural management, art and curatorial practices.

Victoria Lucas travelled to Friuli Venezia Giulia to take up residence with the Pittini Group in Ossopo, a steel producer focused on long steels for construction and mechanics. In addition to these partnership, the artist was also taken to various other sites across the region, including Venzone - a medieval town and national monument that has literally been restored stone by stone, following two devastating earthquakes in 1976 - and the disused Raibl Mines at Cave di Predil.

From these experiences, of which I write about in detail in this document, I developed a body of work with the support of the Natural History Museum in London, which was then exhibited at the Bunker di piazza I maggio, Udine, in November 2022. This exhibition attracted 1000 visitors a day. The following documentation details this sequence of events through images, text and documentation.











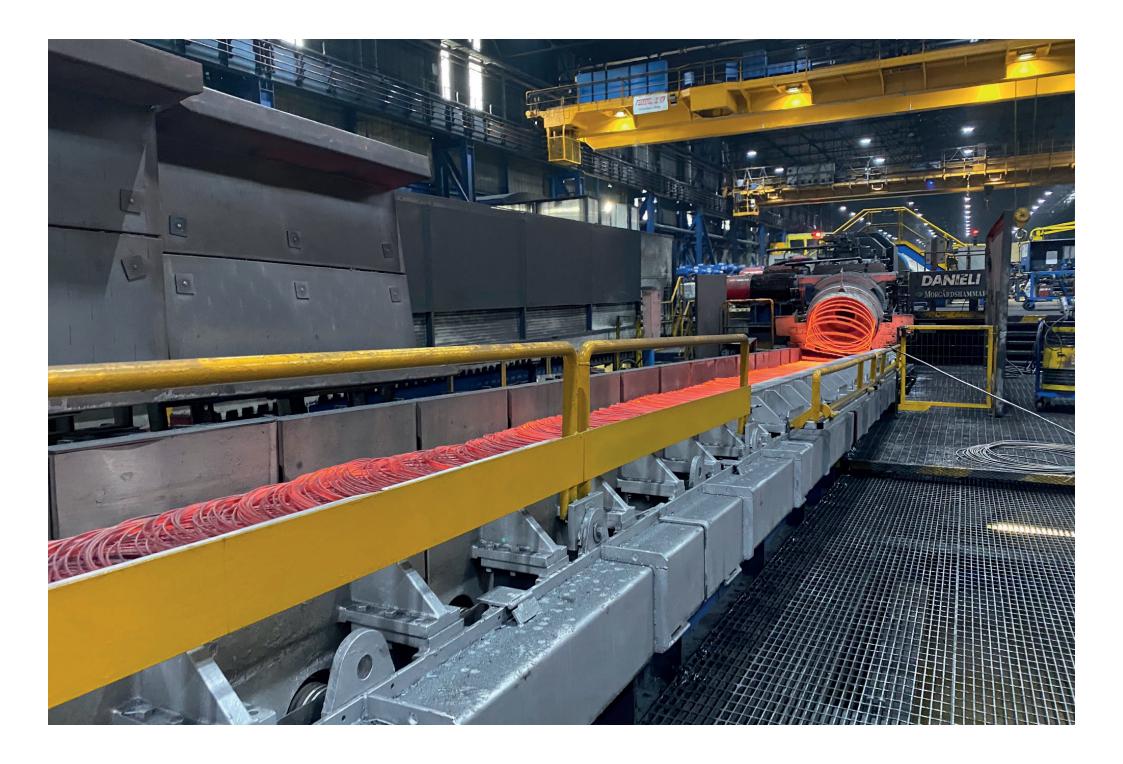


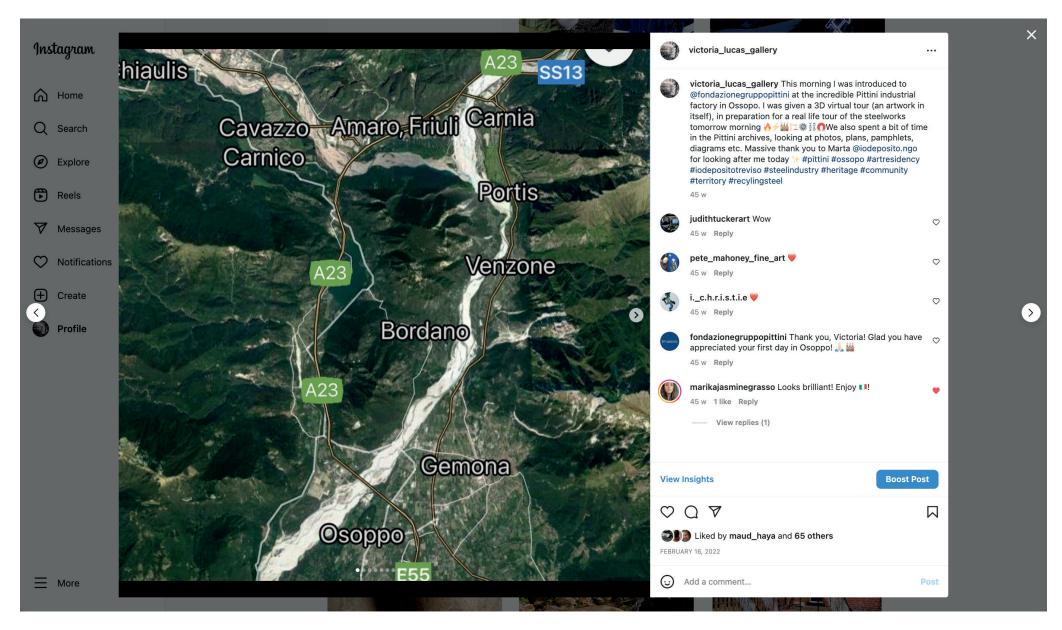












Journal Entry: 16th February 2022

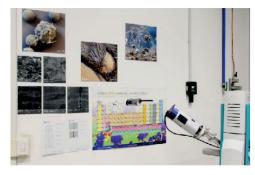
An industrial sprawl, which punctuates an agricultural plateau hemmed with jagged snowy mountains. Plumes of white vapour billow out of steel chimneys, visible against the grey horizon until they blend with the low lying clouds crouching on top of the peaks. The slow time of the mountains is revealed through undulating lines of strata, forming what look like large brush strokes of black ink on a craggy grey surface. Beautiful silent giants; known for their occasional turbulence. One is identified as the epicentre of the 1976 earthquakes, which devastated much of this region, including the factory. I think of the mountain as petulant, its sudden violent outburst a traumatic marker in the memories of those who lived it.

The foundation champions social and cultural responsibility across the region. Local children are educated at the plant through specialised interactive school trips, in the hope that the community holds on to their young instead of losing them to the promise of big cities. The sense of community - of pride - is comforting and healthy. I feel closer to Sheffield's industrial past as I walk down the corridors and through workshops - closer to what was also a community of steel workers - situated in and belonging to place and to each other, through their solidarity. How devastating it must have been when those factories closed.

The site of this industrial complex is supported by rail and road infrastructure, which also serves the people who live in nearby villages and towns. Some workers come from agricultural backgrounds, and tend to their crops at the weekend. Steel workers who maintain orchards and vineyards seems incongruous yet tender, as I think of the burly steel workers of South Yorkshire with their strong accents and coarse hands. The effort exerted by human bodies is how it began. Seams of Iron were extracted - luted - over centuries using rudimentary tools - weapons - deep within the heart of the earth. The region has been invaded and attacked with the aid of this material for centuries, given that it is so close to the country's border.

There has been so much discussion about rebirth, renewal, reconstruction. Using the devastation of war and natural disaster to build back better and stronger, while learning more about the very fabric of place and what came before. Pittini began his business by recycling the detritus left behind by the first and second world wars... melting down the tools of violence and repurposing it in to building materials for the surrounding villages and towns. This reclamation of matter reflects the ingenuity and fastidiousness of the region. Out of destruction comes an opportunity for transformation. A piece of shrapnel, a building, a village, a community. All reformed using energy and slow time.

Venzone was shattered by the earthquakes of 1976. A national monument, this medieval village had been professionally documented prior to the devastation that struck its walls, meaning they had the means of reconstructing each building exactly as it was before. Each stone scattered across the area was organised and positioned in separate storage areas - fields full of stones that once made up walls and arches. Every single stone was positioned in the same order, to the millimetre, a job that took 10 years to complete. Layers of history are revealed through their arrangement forming a palimpsest, dismantled and respectfully restored with the knowledge that one day it will fall again. These markers of the tragedy are not solemn acts of remembrance, but are reminders of the future to come.









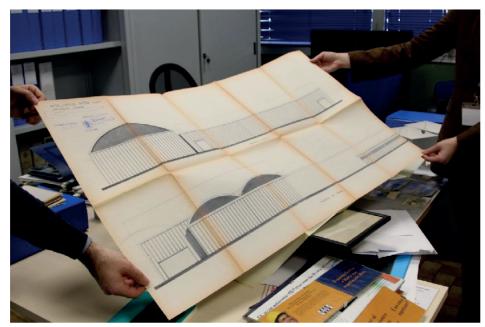












Taken in the Pittini Archive

Journal Entry 17th February 2022

Reclaiming matter as a metamorphosis. From one metal object to another. Hot fluidity, a state of transition, a process of solidifying in to something that is of value in the present moment. A rebirth, a new purpose, a new life. The former shape is just a memory.

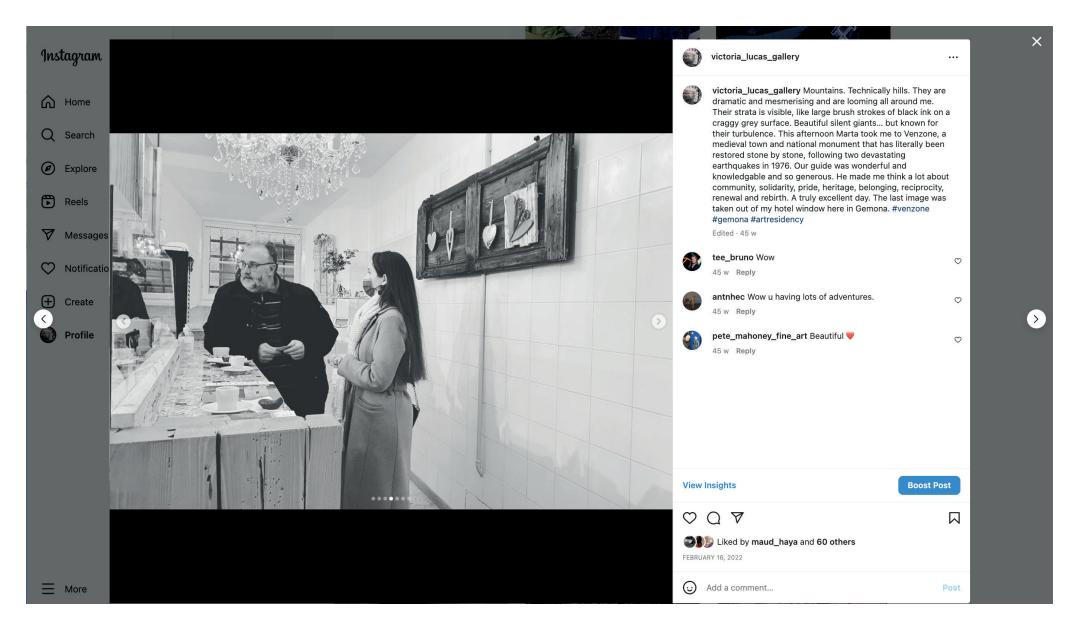
The metals are the guts of the earth. The old stone buildings are the mountains, reassembled. Metal and rock and minerals and water and oxygen and fire. Elemental components that are drawn from the environment and used to create shelters, homes, communities, life.

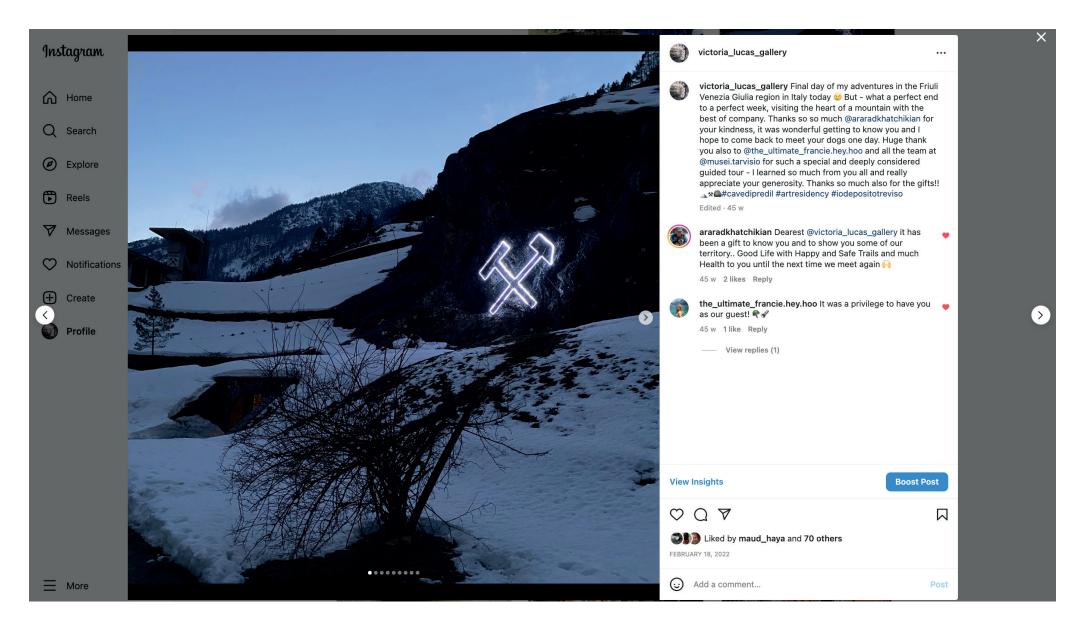
By-products that look like rocks. A slag heap is formed over time. I am drawn to this material, for its association with waste. I am drawn to the scrap heaps for the same reason. Both materials move from obsolescence towards a repurposing through process. Through liquidity and solidity, something is made out of nothing.

I am interested in the geology of the region. The absence left behind after the extraction of minerals, the strata of the mountains compressed over time, the metal that is of earth that is brought to the centre of this plateau seven days a week from all over Europe to be melted and poured and rolled and transformed.

There is something about rebirth and renewal that I want to focus on here. The process that takes place in the factory is reflected in the surrounding communities, specifically Venzone. A piece of discarded metal or a building that has been shook to the ground. Though solidarity and ingenuity and skill and precision, these objects are reborn, reflecting the past while considering the future.

There is something about slow time I want to think about here - living in the past, present and future in this way under the shadow of the mountains - the product of slow time, is quite poignant. pinning this down - scrap to construction material - devastated village to reborn palimpsest - earth, rock, mountains, quakes, turbulence, renewal.



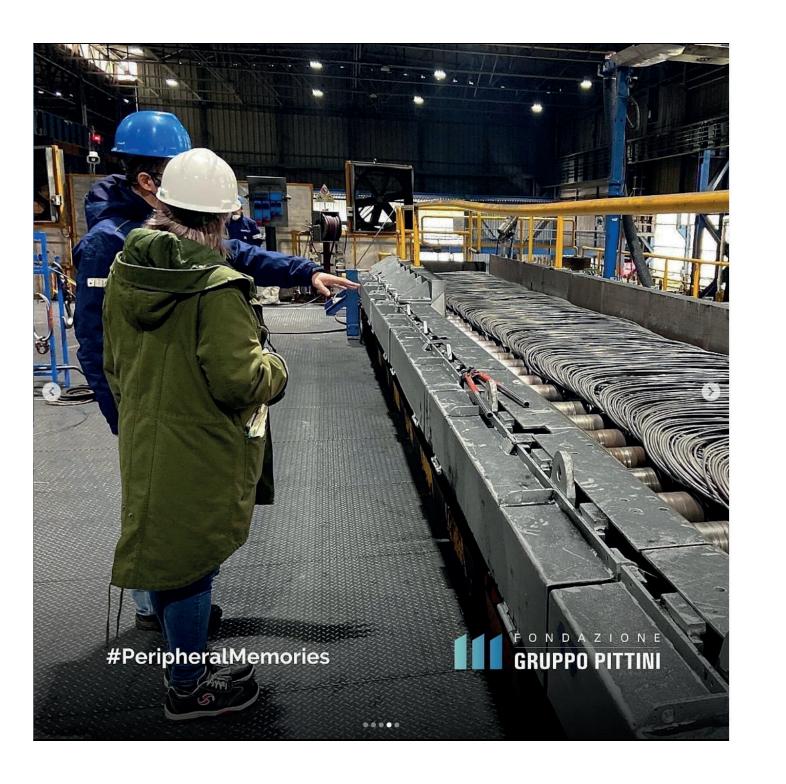
















Victoria Lucas
Shavings, 2022
Photographic Transparency in Lightbox
45cm x 30 cm
Edition 1 of 1

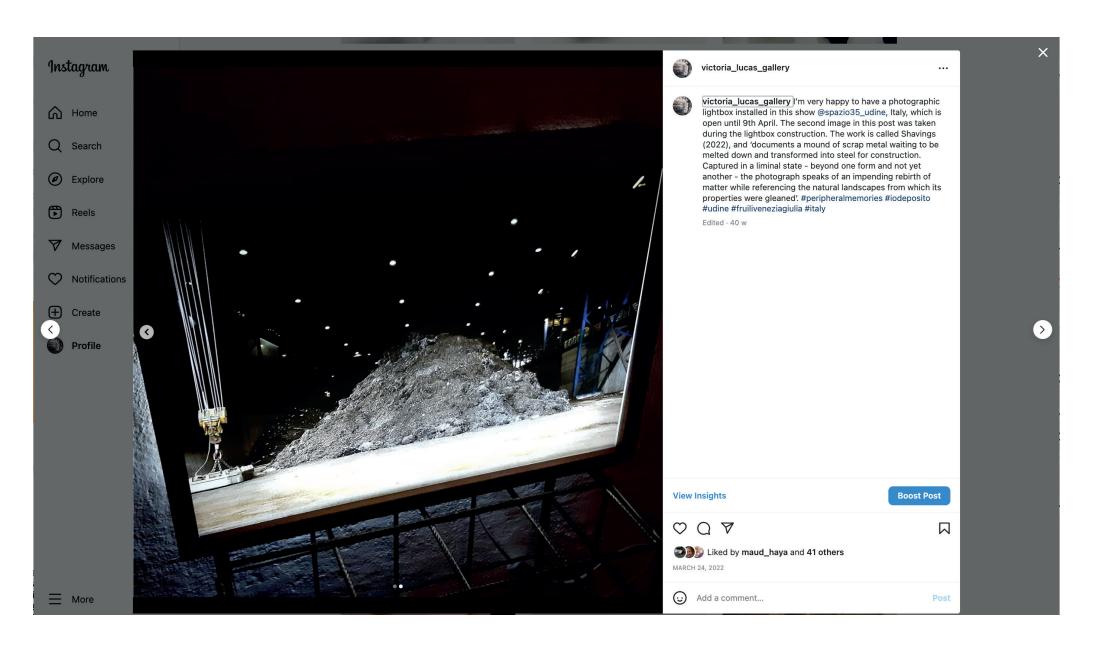
Description:

Shavings presents the viewer with a mound of scrap metal waiting to be melted down and transformed into steel for construction. Captured in a liminal state - beyond one form and not yet another - the photograph speaks of an impending rebirth of matter while referencing the natural landscapes from which its properties were gleaned.

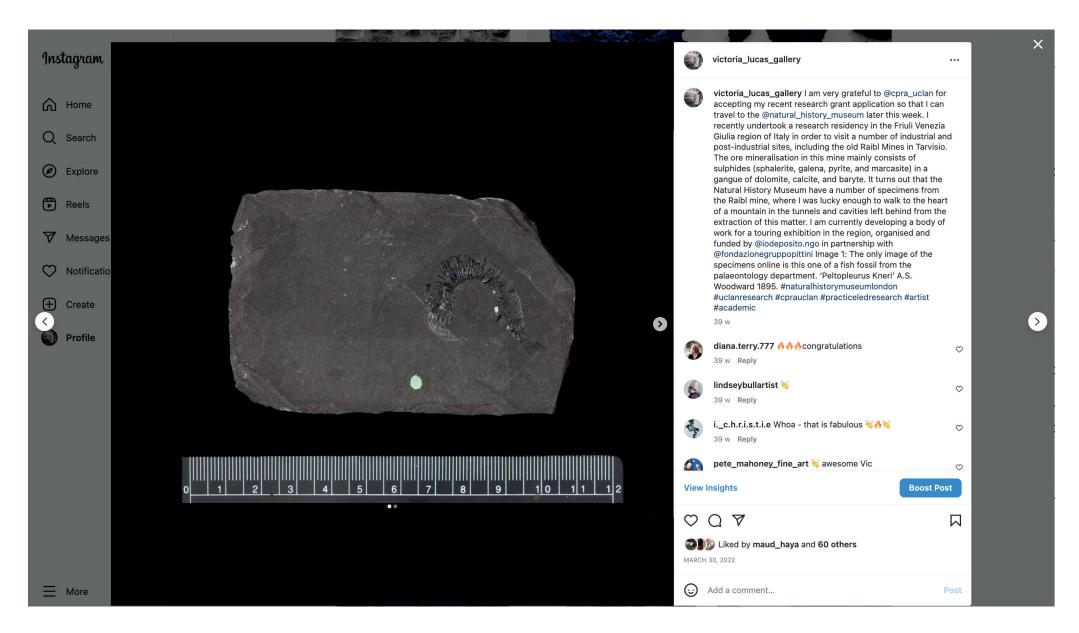


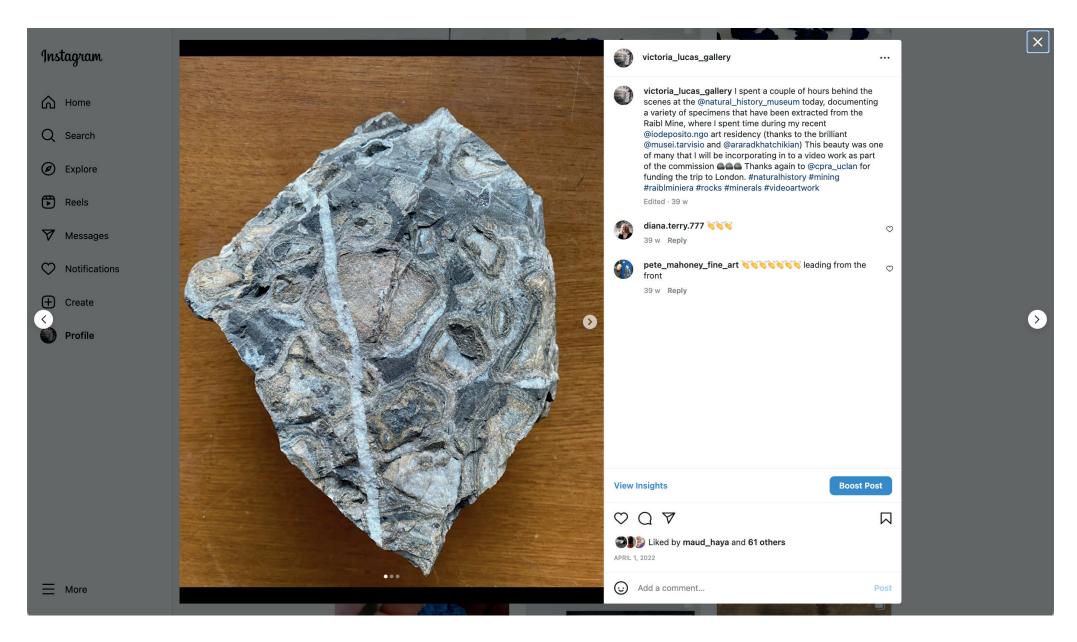
Peripheral Memories, Exhibition at Spazio35, Udine. March - April 2022.

Exhibition



Peripheral Memories, Exhibition at Spazio35, Udine. March - April 2022.





Victoria Lucas *Slow Time*, 2022. Single Channel Digital Video, 7:26 Edition 1 of 1

Description

A single channel digital video with an audio narrative. The work foregrounds a slow motion view through the window of a train, while travelling through the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. The narrative describes a visit by the artist to the Natural History Museum in London, where she visits a collection of rocks and minerals extracted from the Raibl Mine in Cave del Predil over 150 years ago. The artist brings news of their homeland, following a trip to the heart of the mountain with a human stranger she meets along the way. The work includes images and animations of the rocks and minerals that she addresses.

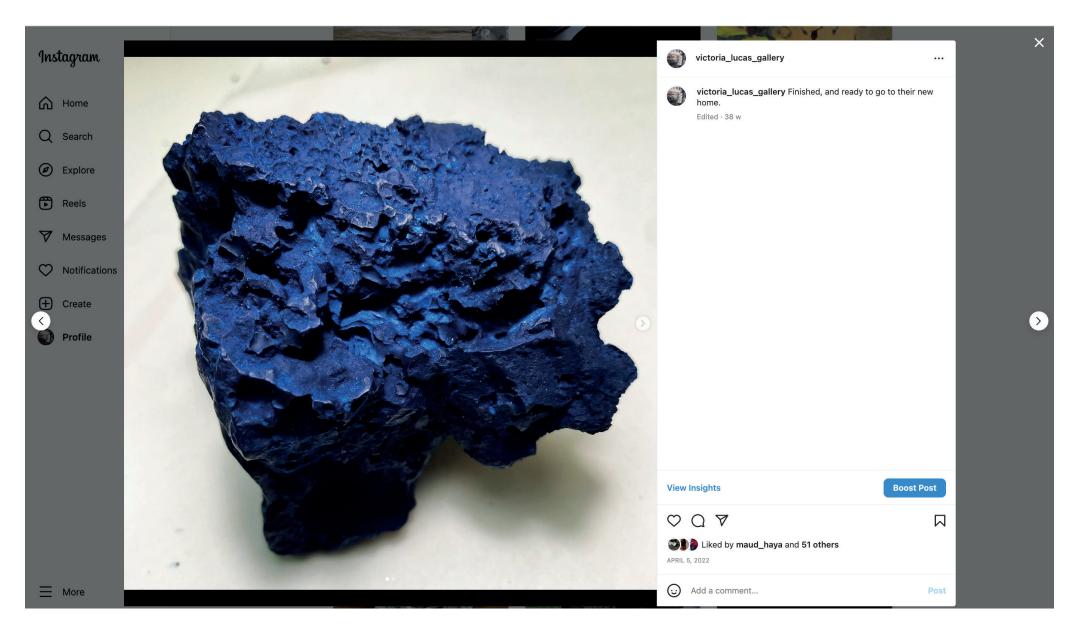
Link to View the Artwork: https://vimeo.com/708683677



Slow Time (2022), Video Still.



Slow Time (2022), Video Still.



Social Media Post, 5th April 2022

Victoria Lucas *Making Something out of Nothing*, 2022

36 Jesmonite Casts of Pittini Slag Fragments
Edition 1 of 1

Approximately 75cm² when installed.

Description

An installation of 36 dark blue Jesmonite sculptures, cast using four different moulds. Measurements are approximately as follows:

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8 x (10 x 7 x 6 cm)
8 x (8 x 7 x 4 cm)
10 x (6 x 4 x 3.5 cm)
10 x (4.5 x 3.6 x 2.5 cm)
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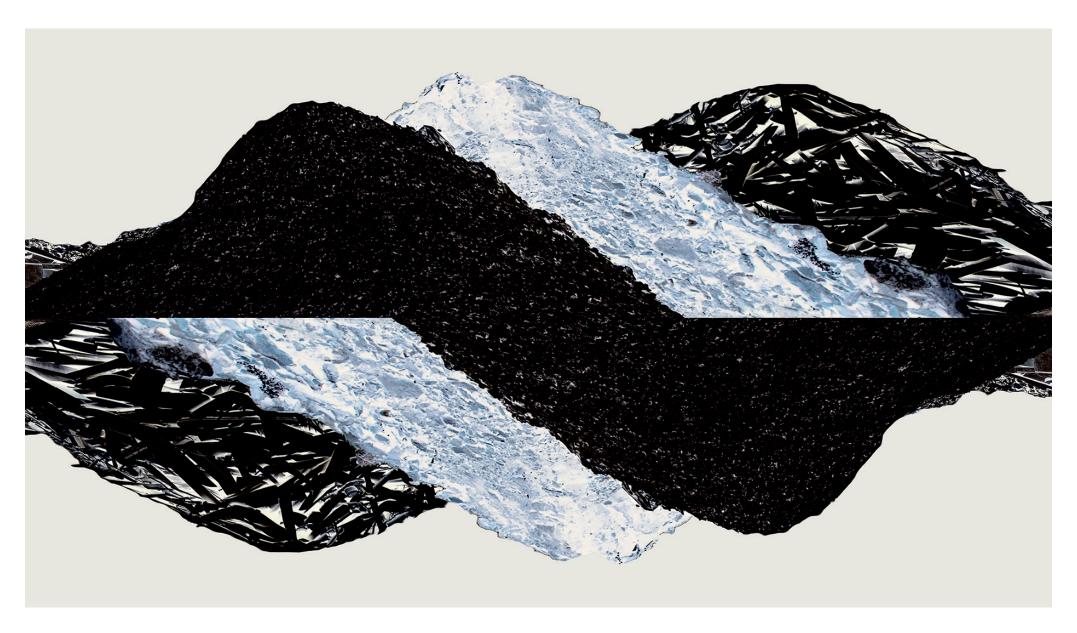


Victoria Lucas
Echoes, 2022
Digital Collage Printed on to Fabric
810 cm x 75cm
Edition 1 of 2

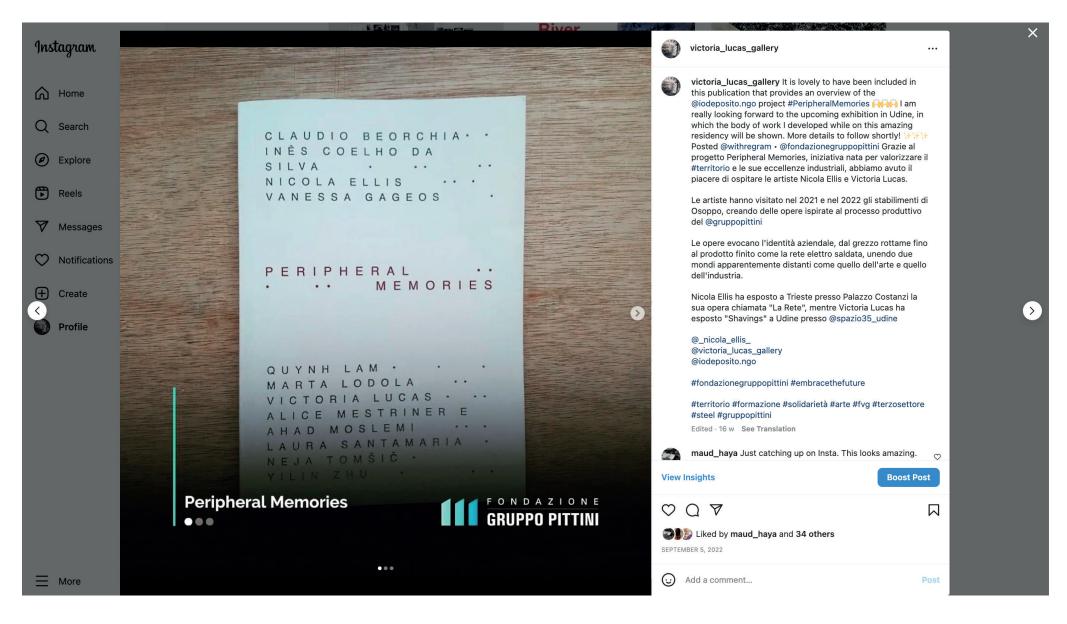
Description

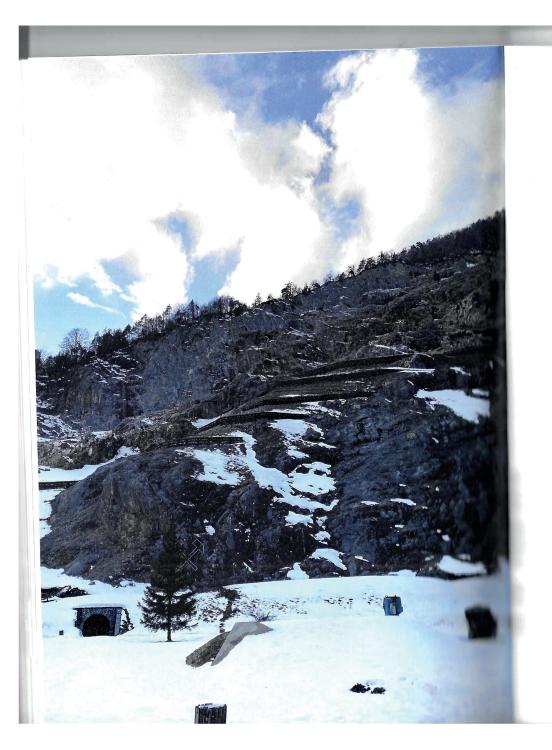
A digital collage of the shape of the horizon viewed from the Pittini factory, using images of the factory's scrap heaps.

"I was really taken by the forms of the scrap heaps in the yard, and how they echoed the shape of the mountains visible on the surrounding horizon. I made a panoramic image of the skyline from a 360 degree walkway positioned on one of the factory chimneys, and then painstakingly reconstructed the mountain range using the images I took of the scrap piles in the yard. The resulting form refers to the surrounding skyline, viewed from two opposing perspectives."



Publication





(UK)

Victoria Lucas ha effettuato la sua residenza artistica a febbraio 2022 nella zona del gemonese e del Canal del Ferro-Val Canale, dove entrerà in contatto con Pittini Group, azienda leader del settore siderurgico.

Per Peripheral Memories II Victoria Lucas ha condotto un'accurata indagine sul rapporto tra l'azienda assegnatale con l'ambiente naturale e la comunità in cui essa è inserita, che si è tradurrà in un'opera installativa, Tesellate, che unirà un video a elementi più materici, come sculture e grandi stampe su tessuto. Il suo approccio è di tipo multidisciplinare, dunque lavora unendo tecniche multimediali e scultoree al fine di realizzare opere che si relazionino a luoghi o circostanze specifiche. I suoi lavori scaturiscono spesso dall'incontro con un luogo o paesaggio, e attraverso l'attenzione a un determinato contesto e ai suoi abitanti sviluppano narrazioni concettuali che sovvertono e categorizzano eventi e miti, utilizzando la materialità del luogo come catalizzatore.

Nella mostra a Udine a marzo 2022 è stata esposta l'opera Shavings, costituita da una fotografia altamente evocativa stampata su vetro e inserita in una particolare cornice retroilluminata.

Alcuni scatti realizzati dall'artista durante il periodo della sua residenza.



Formations I, II, III
Serie fotografica (1/30), 420 x 594mm, 2020

Victoria Lucas (Sheffield, 1982) è un artista britannica e ricercatrice con base a Sheffield dove è attualmente docente universitaria alla University of Central Lancashire. I suoi lavori più recenti si concentrano sulla volontà di decostruire e ricostruire paesaggi devastati dall'azione umana, con particolare attenzione all'esperienza femminile.







Alcuni scatti realizzati dall'artista a Venzone durante il periodo della sua residenza.





L'opera di Victoria Lucas in fase di lavorazione.

L'opera

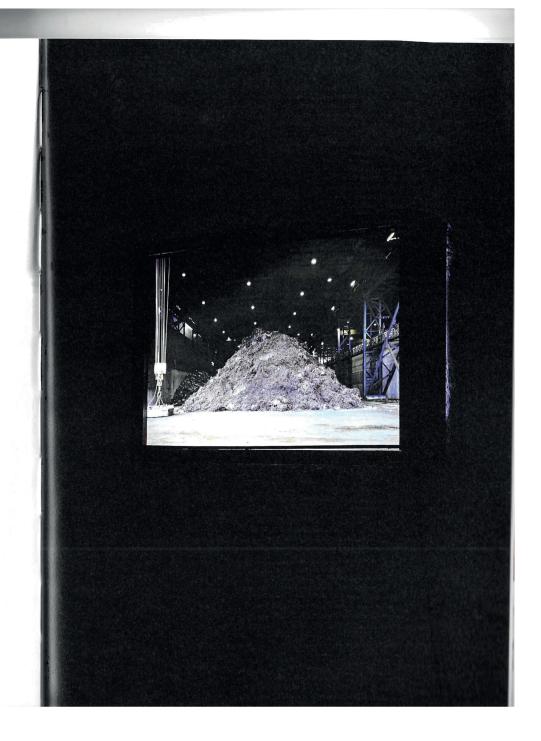
SHAVINGS

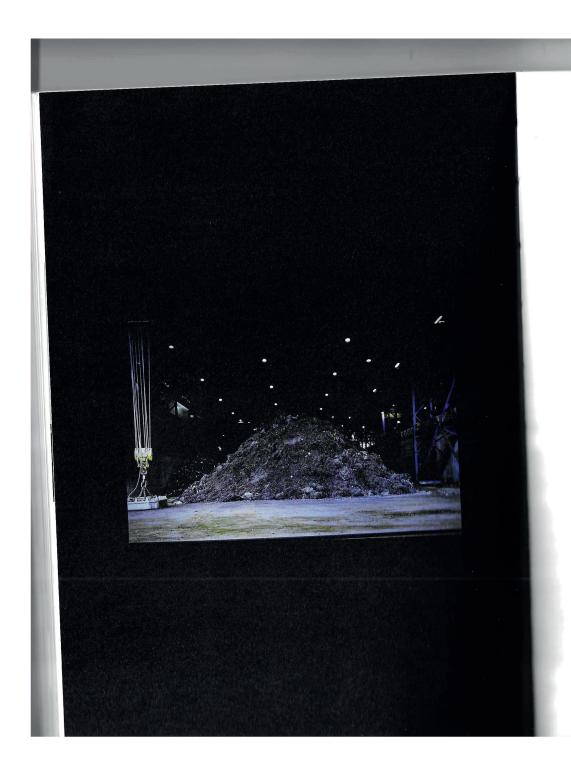
Fotografia, stampa su vetro, 2022

L'opera ideata da Victoria Lucas per Peripheral Memories è ancora in fase di lavorazione, dunque in questa mostra è stata esposta un'installazione altamente simbolica della ricerca effettuata dall'artista nel corso della sua residenza sul territorio, che anticipa i concetti chiave dell'opera finale.

Shavings presenta agli spettatori l'immagine di un cumulo di rottami metallici in attesa di essere sciolto e ritrasformato in acciaio per costruzioni: esso è catturato in uno stato liminale, sospeso tra la sua forma passata e quella futura. La fotografia parla di un'imminente rinascita della materia, richiamando allo stesso tempo il paesaggio naturale da cui essa era stata estratta nella sua condizione originaria.

L'opera conclusa, *Tesellate*, sarà un'installazione mixed media, composta da un video, delle sculture in jemsonite e un grande collage digitale stampato su tessuto.





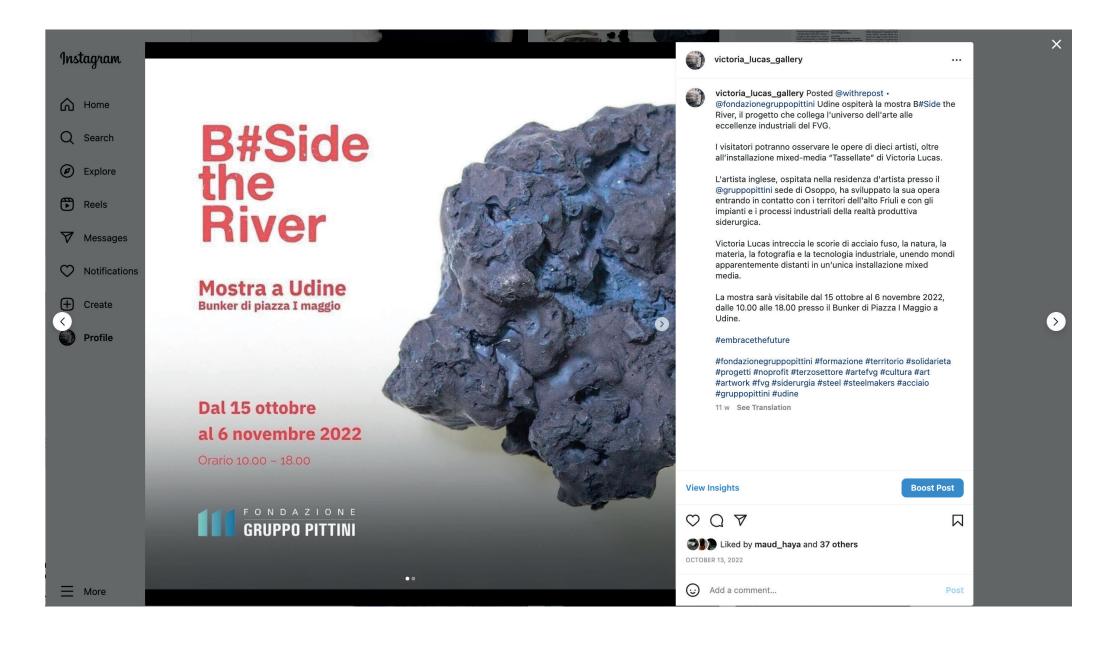


Ph. credits: Mattia Carrer

The publication documented details the IoDeposito project Peripheral Memories, the context from which the residency and subsequent exhibitions were developed. Peripheral Memories is a project that aims to de-construct, rework and re-build in a collective way, and represent – through the physical body and the body of a work of art – the memory of the territories of the extreme north-eastern border (the Julian Alps and the Karst, the Udine foothills and the Isonzo), elaborating the theme of absence and industrial divestment, while enhancing, through contemporary art practices, the industrial realities still present and active in the main sectors that have always characterized the region: the extraction and processing of metal, maritime industry, textiles and wood.

More information can be found here: https://www.iodeposito.org/en/projects/

Exhibition



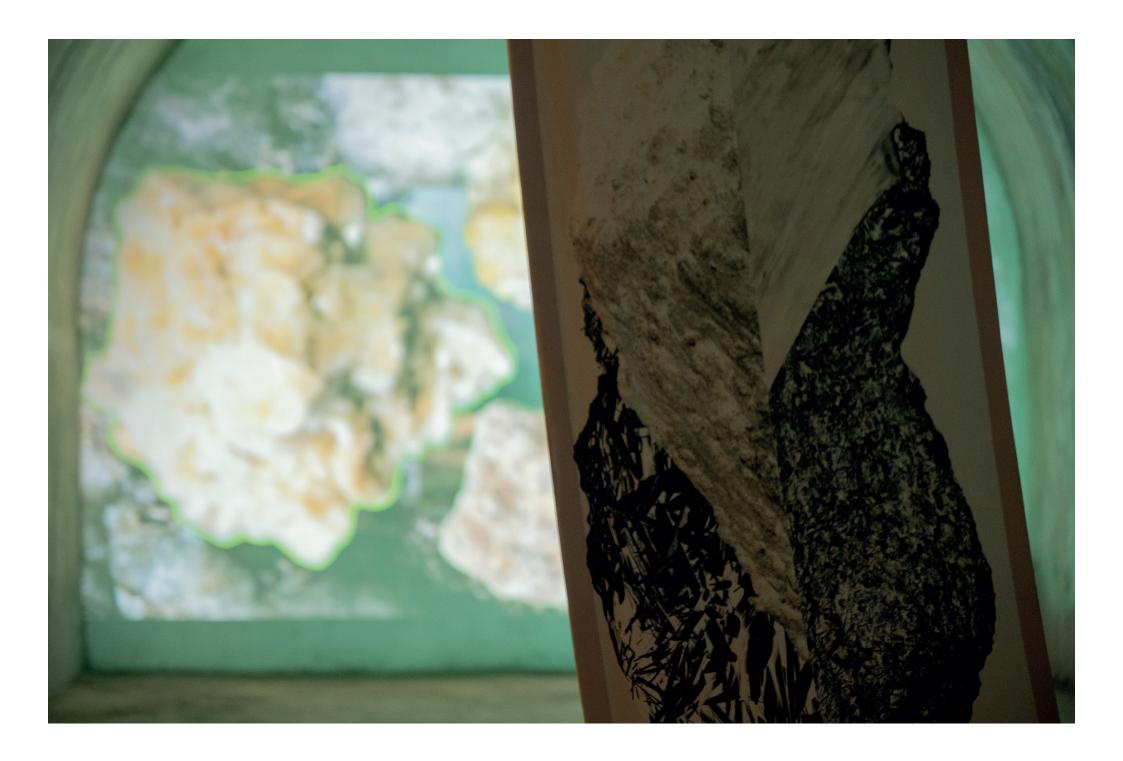


The body of artistic research is entitled Tesselate. The four works were exhibited together for the first time in October - November 2022, at the Bunker do piazza I maggio in Udine. The exhibition attracted on average 1000 visitors per day. The following images document the installation and venue.

Tesselate Exhibition Text

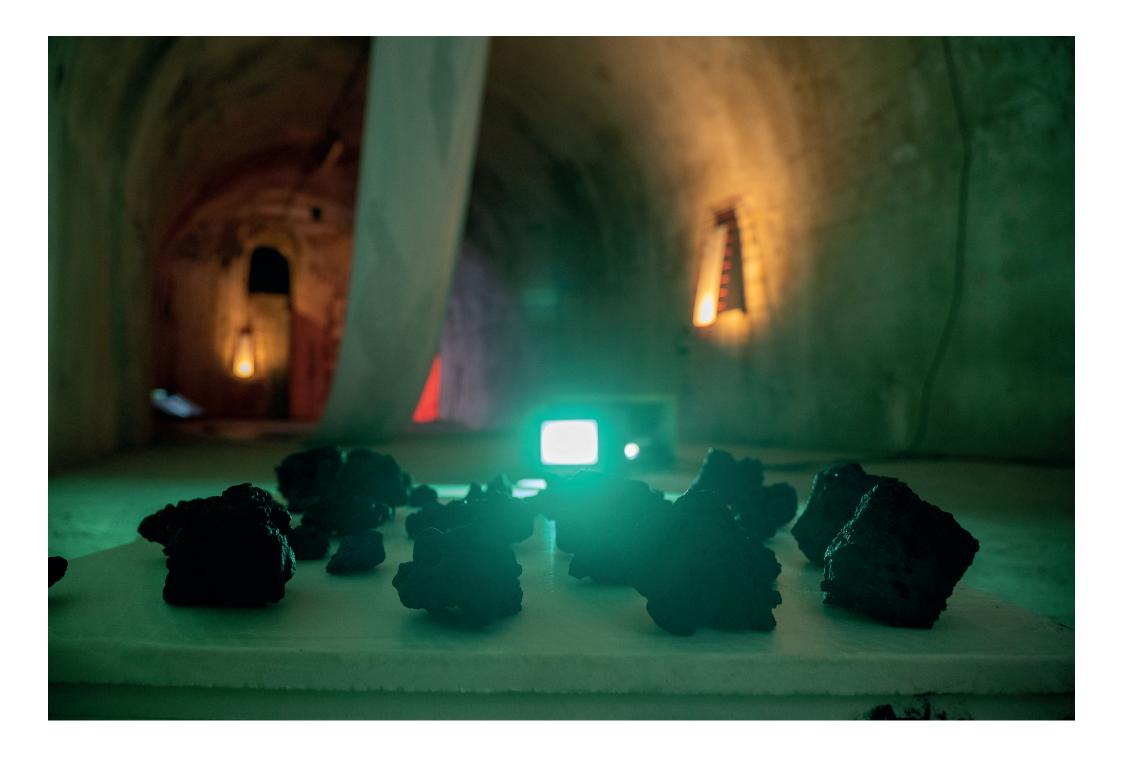
For centuries, humanism has categorised the natural world as other in order to support extractive capitalism. Yet our ancestry is 'a nonlinear tangle of animacy with multiple points of entry... it is rhizomatic, rooting into different species and deep time' (Sophie Strand, 2021). Lucas' project explores this entanglement of matter, as the power of mineral, muscle, machine and technology tesselate to unite terrigenous material in a continuous state of becoming. In the works, scrap metal, slag matter, volcanic eruptions and mined mountains become agents of this liquid existence, which cyclically flow and solidify in place and through time.









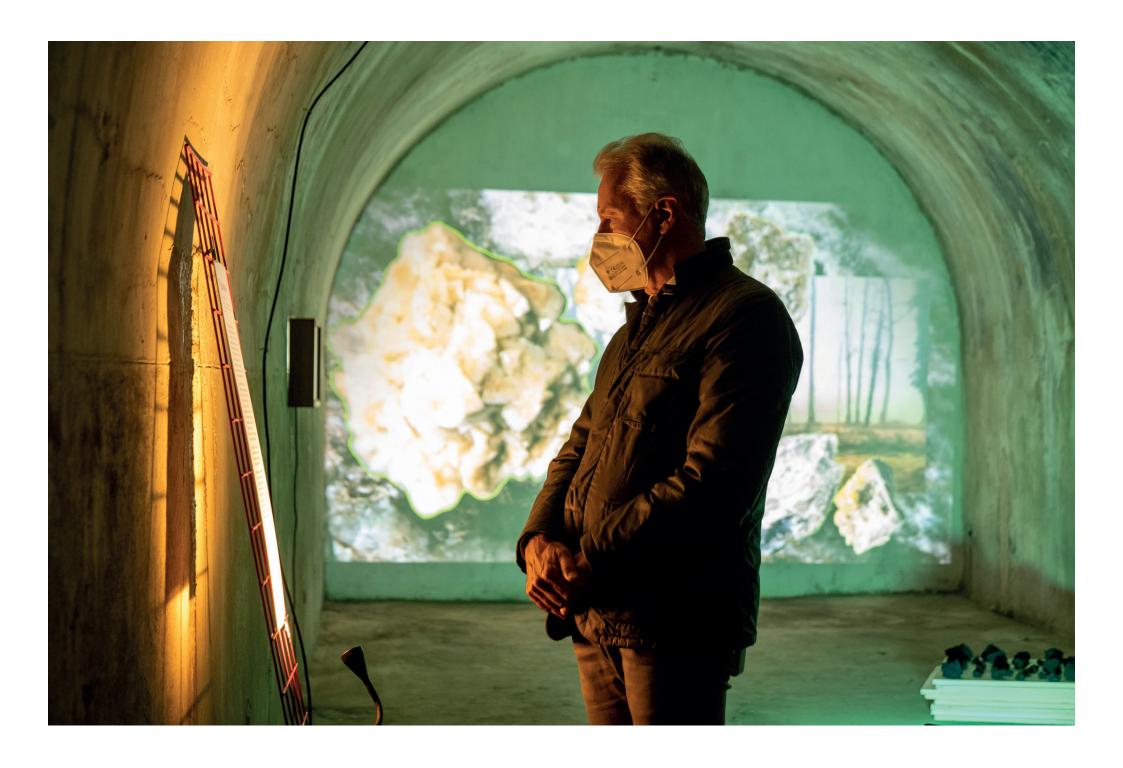


















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Mostra nel bunker antiaereo Mille visitatori alla settimana

ARTE

suggello delle residenze di dieci artisti internazionali attivate quest'estate sul territorio regionale dal festival R#Side the River - promosse dall'Associazione IoDeposito, sotto la direzione artistica di Chiara Isadora Artico - è in corso, nel Rifugio antiaereo di piazza I Maggio, a Udine, una mostra che fonde i linguaggi più innovativi dell'arte contemporanea con la ricer-ca storica. Filo rosso del progetto è la rilettura della narrativa storica legata alle terre che corrono lungo il fiume Isonzo, attraverso pratiche partecipative dell'arte contemporanea. Ne sono scaturite opere d'arte inedite - fra performance, arte digitale e arte visuale - nutrite della memoria collettiva. Dalla sua apertura, a metà ottobre, la mostra - visitabile ogni giorno dalle 10 alle 18 - ha quasi raggiunto il traguardo dei 3mila visitatori, con oltre mille persone la settimana e oltre 400 persone al giorno durante i weekend. "L'estetica severa ed evocativa del rifugio antiaereo è ideale per ospitare una mostra dedicata ai nuovi linguaggi dell'arte - spiega Chiara Isadora Artico -: i numeri dei visitatori, e la loro forte motivazione a interagire con i contenuti, ci fanno pensare che il pubblico regionale sia interessato ai temi della complessità storica, tanto quanto alle pratiche artistiche di nuova generazione». Le fa eco l'Assessore comunale alla cultura, Fabrizio Cigolot, spiegando



BUNKER In primo piano l'artista serba Andreja Kargacin

che «Udine è lieta di ospitare GLI ARTISTI una tappa della rassegna espositiva, che si afferma per la qua-toria Lucas, che nel suo progetco rifugio antiaereo».

PORDENONE

Loris Del Frate

PEDAZIONE Marco Agrusti, Cristina Antonutti, Lorenzo Marchiori, Franco Mazzotta, Susanna Salvador, Pier Paolo

UFFICIO DI CORRISPONDENZA DI UDINE Corte Savorgnan, 28 Tel. (0432) 501072 - Fax (041) 665181

Camilla De Mori

In mostra la britannica Vic-

lità della ricerca artistica e per to - realizzato in collaboraziol'originale allestimento, che ria- ne con Fondazione Gruppo Pitpre alla città le porte dello stori- tini - esplora l'intreccio tra materia, uomo, natura e tecnologia nei secoli; l'artista multidi-IL GAZZETTINO sciplinare neozelandese di origine cambogiana, Lang Ea; l'artista serba Andreja Kargacin; la turca Gülhatun Yildirim; la svedese Ingrid Ogenstedt; la belga Nathalie Vanheule; l'italiana Marta Lodola, specializzata in performance art; lo sloveno Boris Beja; il canadese Holly Timpener; l'olandese Deimion "Peim" van der Sloot, «La memoria rappresenta la nostra storia e mai come in questo momento cerchiamo nel passato le nostre radici e la forza per guardare avanti», spiega Simona Ferri Pittini, vice presidente della Fondazione Gruppo Pittini, partner del progetto. Info: www.bsidewar.org.



victoria_lucas_gallery



victoria_lucas_gallery Over 1000 visitors a week so far, congratulations to the @iodeposito.ngo team for producing such a successful show. Article from the @ilgazzettino.it nice to see the Tessellate project pictured. #mostraudine #ilgazzettino #dipiazzaimaggio #iodeposito



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OCTOBER 29, 2022



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