

ICI Venice - Istituto Culturale Internazionale
presents

LOOKING FOR MARCO POLO

ALICE GUITTARD

SOLO SHOW - ARTIST RUN SPACE

At the moment of Biennale de Venice 2019
ICI Venice - Magazzino del Caffè – Venice – Italy

8TH OF MAY - 28TH OF JULY 2019

Ideatore : Olivier Perpoint

At the time of the Venice Biennale 2019, ICI International Cultural Institute welcomes the emerging French artist Alice Guittard - winner of the Emerigé Award for her first solo show: **LOOKING FOR MARCO POLO**

Since 2014, Alice Guittard and ICI International Cultural Institute have been researching the myth of Marco Polo. They wanted to create a new experience in the form of an Artist Run Space. Where the artist herself is curator and mediator of the space.

The works created especially for this exhibition have as their point of departure the story of Marco Polo, and more precisely his famous work *The Devisement of the World*, also called *The Book of Wonders* and all the legends that surround it. The stories of Marco Polo recall the part of fiction that attaches to any narrative traveler, they then ask the question of the boundary between travel and non-travel.

Maybe Marco Polo would never have left Venice ...

The central piece, the film «*Filature à la gondole*» offers an investigation that is both a mental introspection mixed with an architectural observation that brings us clues as and when the drift. Shot in 16mm black and white film, it is projected in a loop in the exhibition space. Various clues collected during the Venetian wanderings of Alice Guittard enrich the film.

The artist run space exhibition will be online on artsy.

Title of the exhibition:

LOOKING FOR MARCO POLO solo show by Alice Guittard
Ideatore : Olivier Perpoint

Dates et times 08.05.2019 - 28.07.2019 friday saturday, sunday 10:00-13:00 15:00-19:00
And on appointment

Preview 8/9/10.05.2019 10:00-13:00 15:00-19:00

Opening saturday 11.05.2019 at 10:00

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ICI INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTE WELCOMES THE EMERGING FRENCH ARTIST ALICE GUITTARD FOR HER FIRST SOLO SHOW LOOKING FOR MARCO POLO.

THE STARTING POINT IS THE STORY OF MARCO POLO WHICH RECALLS THE FICTIONNAL PART THAT IS ATTACHED TO ANY TRAVELER'S STORY. IN THE FORM OF AN ARTIST'S FILM, AN INVESTIGATION, WHICH AT THE SAME TIME A MENTAL INTROSPECTION MIXED WITH AN ARCHITECTURAL OBSERVATION, BRING US CLUES AS AND WHEN SLIDING. VARIOUS PIECES OF EVIDENCE COLLECTED DURING THE VENETIAN WANDERINGS ENRICH THE FILM INSTALLATION.



Alice Guittard
Film director and producer



Jacob Mc Carthy Wiener
Director of photography



Lou Reina
Actress



Eugène Blove
Sound director



Francesco Bernardi
Rower



Olivier Perpoint
Associate producer



Martina Masini
Fixer



Jean Boggio
Jeweller



François Pannier
Ethnographic accessories



Brice Chatenoud
Set photographer



Alice Guittard was born in 1986 in Nice
Lives and works in Paris and Venice

www.aliceguittard.com

In 2005, she first undertook a degree in geography and archeology at the Faculty of Nice Sophia-Antipolis before realizing that the maps interest her for their ambulatory aspect and the minerals in their poetic density.

That same year, thanks to a condemned love, she discovered Hero-Limit (1953) of Ghérasim Luca, book that will be the starting point of a work on writing with the will of a post-mortem collaboration with the author, disappeared ten years earlier, since there is no more room for poets in this world. It is ten years after her death that Alice Guittard begins an infinite series of synonymic re-writings of the book Sept Slogans ontophoniques (1963) by Ghérasim Luca.

In 2009, she undertakes research with Tom Bulbex, literary alter-égo born of a mistake of language. It sets out to conquer Mount Nodal, which will give rise to the symbolically authentic non-Euclidean transalpine quest, which grants several techniques such as publishing, sculpture, photography, sound and drawing. It was in 2012 that Alice experienced the performance during a stay in Iceland by rallying the exploration of the language to that of hostile landscapes, preferring tangible results of imaginary solutions and roads all traced their pathways. From this journey, hitchhiked with a sign «Alveg sama», literally «It does not matter», it drifts in the Icelandic hostile landscape and finds its base in Arnarstapi on the Snæfellsnes peninsula, starting point for travel to center of the Earth Jules Verne.

It is through editions, photographs, videos, sculptures and experiments that Alice Guittard derives from stories to stories by revealing in a nutshell the elements that constitute her travels (Mexico, Japan, Iceland, Peru) . With regard to her meticulous research, she cites the concept of serendipity, which the creator of the term, Horace Walpole, defined as the discovery of something by accident and sagacity while one is looking for something else, a definition of art in sum.

Her method of research takes place in two stages, first a risky encounter which then develops an analogy, a mental connection of things that creates bonds, for example, an egg in a nest.

Alice Guittard also analyzes her relationship to time, the viewer and the collective memory. Her work questions the notion of exposure by revealing the underbelly of creation and production, playing on the spatio-temporal drift. For her, exhibition rhymes with expedition. Her desire to push the limits of exposure by inventing each time another format, another language is for her a way to bring about surprising analogies in the observer.

In her installations, the visitor then becomes a player in a framed but not limited reality. Starting drifting in space, he becomes narrative of a scenario to come. Moreover, her installations are never the culmination of a project, but simply a stage. The projects extend, tell, share, stop and then resume.

1. Farewell letter from Ghérasim Luca to his companion Micheline Catti (1994)



Alice Guittard

Laureate of the commission of the Cité internationale des arts in Paris where she has been in residence since September 2018

In Novembre 2018 she presented *Atrocement réel* as part of the BIENVENUE festival and participated in the group show *Bad girls do it well* in April 2019 in the gallery of the Cité internationale des Arts.

www.citedesartsparis.net

ICI – International Cultural Institute

ICI is a non-profit socio-cultural organization whose vocation is the development of cultural resonances between East and West, between ethnographic art and a contemporary element (art, architecture, design, etc.), as well as the enhancement of the local heritage of Venice - Italy. Created by young Italians and French, ICI Venice, in few years, has become a cultural actor recognized by the Ca' Foscari University and the MiBAC (Italian Ministry of Culture), both for the scientific goal and for the way to make the cultures of the world known. ICI Venice soon established a loyal audience that came to visit the "Coffee Warehouse" to discover little-known subjects such as the trail of Nepal, Bhutan, Zan Par and emerging contemporary artists.

In 2019, at the same time as the Venice Biennale, ICI Venice hosts the French artist Alice Guittard, winner of the Emerige and Bernar Venet awards, in an Artist Run Space to continue the search for her work: "LOOKING FOR MARCO POLO" from 7 May to 31 August 2019. With the support of Valore Cultura of Generali, ICI also presents an itinerary through a selection of craftsmen of Venice for the project NATHALIE DECOSTER Intime Venice .

www.icivenice.com

Why an Artist run space in Venice ?

Since 2014, Alice Guittard and ICI International Cultural Institute have been researching about the myth of Marco Polo. These five years have been punctuated with encounters, experiences, ravings Just like in the story of Marco Polo, these moments have opened new roads, opportunities, stories. In prefiguration of an exhibition, or instead of this exhibition, like this trip, done or not, by the Venetian, they wished to create a new stage, a new experience, or even a final stage, to this research work: a solo show in the form of an Artist Run Space.

In recent years, several artist residencies at ICI CASA have allowed Alice Guittard to explore the city and capture an essence, to go beyond the single question -did he really make this trip ? -

Meetings in Italy, in France have enriched the research with ethnographic objects that are described in the book, find themselves materialized in the Himalayas as we learned François Pannier, true stories but secret or incongruous : we will return the land of gardens in Venice to look for the body of the parents of Marco Polo, itself being, according to the legend buried next to his parents, a current would allow to go around Venice by boat without rowing, a jeweler goldsmith Jean Boggio fantasy architectures with a master Venetian glassmaker Moulaye Niang, ...

As usual, a reading and analysis of the work of Marco Polo allowed Alice Guittard to define a structure. This story of the trip is interrupted by ravings that arise and the return to the road of the east is the basis of the artist's 16mm film produced especially for this exhibition.

The Artist Run Space will allow the public to participate in a moment of Alice Guittard's narrative on Marco Polo. The visitor will be an integral part of the research work, the creative process with its doubts, its convictions. Our doubts, our convictions, those of Alice or mine. Your doubts and your convictions on our world.

The artist will activate the space at different times at his convenience: with announcement or surprise effect, pushing the door or door wide open. In the first place at the opening of the 7 to 10 May 2019, she will reveal her place.

For 8 years, ICI International Cultural Institute has been supporting and renewing the presence of contemporary artists emerging on the market, the usual relations with their galleries or the actors of contemporary art, in a collaborative vision: exhibitions of ethnographic art associated with a contemporary element of emerging artists (installation, architecture, dance, ...), the presence on Artsy (since 2018), ICI CASA art residencies (since 2015) in particular that of Murano, valuation of craftsmen of Venice, organization of table round on cultural industries within Marketing Congresses, ...

This new experience Alice Guittard's ARTIST RUN SPACE is the natural evolution to support Culture and emerging artists in the new unstable global context.

Note of intent by Alice Guittard

The project envisaged for the *Magazzino Del Caffè* is based on the story of Marco Polo, and more precisely his famous work *The Devisement of the World*, also called *The Book of Wonders* and all the legends that surround it. The original text, probably written in 1298 in Old French, did not reach us, but many transcriptions circulated in the Middle Ages, which can give us a fairly clear idea of its form and content. It should first be noted that the explorer was of great discretion in China, Country in which he had stayed more than 17 years at Kubilai Khan. «A discretion such as the imperial archives, yet very complete, do not bear any trace of his passage, even though he says he has been charged with important functions.»* Equally astonishing are some shortcomings in his story that do not mention certain traditions such as the tea ceremony, the Chinese feet, or the peculiarity of the ideogram alphabet and even the Great Wall of China, which stretches several thousand kilometers. For all travel stories, they ask the question of the boundary between travel and non-travel.

Maybe Marco Polo would never have left Venice ...

So I went several times in this «Queen of the Adriatic» and collected various stories from locals as the existence of a legendary current that allows you to navigate without rowing once, the presence of a little known secret channel to Rio del Duca, the feeling of falling back to childhood because of the low perception of architecture, buildings thought for a view of hindsight yet impossible ...

The film «*Filature à la gondole*» proposes an investigation that is at the same time a mental introspection mixed with an architectural observation that brings us clues as and when drifting. The central character, investigator of voiceless voices, establishes a reflection of a singular voice, oscillating between murmur and provocation, soliloquy and confidence, dialogic plurality of figures of the drama on the silence of the image that scrolls.

By this drift, one can not obtain a stable image of the movement, the image can never take, always rejecting the formation of the last possible image: that of «the one-who-tries-directions-different-before -to-find-his-definitive-way»; it goes back to what the unknown person has never ceased to miss, there is no last image possible, and that is the purpose of this film, which will be shot in 16mm black and white film and projected in a loop in the exhibition space.

This film will be enriched with various clues collected during my Venetian wanderings. –

*excerpt from «*Comment parler des lieux où l'on n'a pas été ?*», Pierre Bayard, les Éditions de Minuit, 2012



Extracts from *Filature à la gondole*, 16mm movie by Alice Guittard, 2019



During the shooting *Filature à la gondole*, 16mm movie by Alice Guittard
© Brice Chatenoud



During the shooting *Filature à la gondole*, 16mm movie by Alice Guittard
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