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Origin and Geography in the Digital Era

An exhibition curated by Alessia Armeni

At the Italian Cultural Institute - San Francisco

October 4- 25, 2013

Opening night: 4 October, 6:30pm



Is belonging to one place still possible? Is it still relevant to Art?

The more the world becomes technologically interconnected, thus reducing Earth to the size of a microchip, the more contemporary art seems to look for a link with one's own place of origin, be it by birth or choice. This is the thought that spawned this exhibit, together with a more specific, autobiographical motive: the connection between Italy, land of ancestral traditions, and America, land of possibilities.

“In my experience as an artist educated in Italy,” says Armeni, “America has always been a destination, a goal. So I was surprised and honored to discover the magnitude of the significant number of Americans who come to Italy for a period of studies and to discover how Italy still is today a cornerstone for the formation of any artist.”

The exhibit is built around this double track, inviting artists who in different ways, through aspiration, interest, chance, or origin, have come to participate in a dialogue and to reflect on Italy.

The exhibit invites a question, a reflection on the possibility of finding correspondences or similarities between works -- or, on the other hand, of finding that the cultural interchange is nowadays so widespread that no clear geographic belonging can be reckoned.

Is art then, for Italian artists working in the States or for the Americans who have worked in Italy, the container of a cultural track of their own history and background, or is the globalization of the Internet making this all much murkier and underspecified? This is an open question, and its answer is left to the interpretation of the viewer.

Artists: Kara Maria, Gioj De Marco, Kathryn Dunlevie, Santiago Gervasi, Charlotta Maria Hauksdottir, Franck Perry, Philip Ringler, Lisa Solomon, and Alessia Armeni.

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