

Ecole du Magasin-CNAC, Grenoble  
SESSION 22, 2012-2013

FRIDAY REPORT  
Submitted by Carmen Stolfi

**Group members:**

Carmen  
Dimitra  
Kanika  
Katia  
Laurie  
Michela

**WEEK VII | November 12-16:**

Focus of the week: the first seminar taken by Andrea Viliani – November 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

A small group – Dimitra, Laurie and Michela – attended the symposium *Pas Par là / Takhle ne* at the ESAAA – École Supérieure d'Art de l'Agglomération d'Annecy on Monday.

**Monday, November 12nd**

Dimitra, Laurie and Michela attended the seminar in Annecy while the rest of the group worked from home. From the seminar, Michela came to know the Russian artist Avdei Ter-oganyan who, according to her and Katia, seems to be very interesting in terms of artistic practice.

**Tuesday, November 13rd**

The group worked at the presentation of its own curatorial project to allow Andrea Viliani better understand our direction and fields of interest.

**Wednesday, November 14th**

First day of the seminar.

The seminar started at 10am in the auditorium with an initial conversation with Andrea Viliani. He asked us what is relevant to us and why we are attending the post-graduate course at the Ecole du Magasin. Once received the answers, he commented them and tried to link our interests in order to create connections in the group.

*Kanika:* Travel & discover. To translate the energy of different places, the people that inhabit them and my experiences to an exhibition format with the intent of it carrying a distinct pulse of its own.

*Dimitra:* the notion of survival referred to the particular and critical economical situation Greece is now facing.

*Carmen:* the notion and the application of transdisciplinarity more as a mix than as an overlapping of distinguished layers.

*Laurie:* the role of the exhibition space

*Katia:* the importance of understanding (the importance of misunderstanding in order to generate a new knowledge).

*Michela:* the relevance of learning and working together

The first day of the seminar mainly dealt with Andrea's institutional experiences at MAMbo in Bologna and Fondazione Galleria Civica in Trento. Among the projects, one of the most interesting was that realized by Ryan Gander at the Pavillion of Esprit Nouveau in Bologna concerning the notions of time, legacy and trust. Toward the end of the day, Andrea's presentation became a slow excursus of the artists he had the chance to work with without really underling the reason why he was mentioning them. As the talk exceeded the scheduled time, we finally did not have the time for Q&A and just one hour was dedicated to the presentation of our project.

As a group, each of us decided to take the floor and introduce a single aspect of our work. Andrea expressed interest in our project by defining it 'with a potential' and focused on the notions of **desires** and **truth** deriving from Slavoj Žižek's concept of 'undesirability of truth'.

### Thursday, November 15th

Second day of the seminar.

The group made the discussion with Andrea Viliani start with our project in order to figure out possible solutions to go further and reach the final step of the statement proposal.

Andrea highly recommended to propose some artists we would love to work with and confront ourselves with them. For him, the dialogue with the artist is not something that comes up at the end of the curatorial project. Indeed, is the most important part of the work and must be during the process. The artist can even change all our work and that means we, as curators, need to be flexible and not to have already defined the statement of the project.

Having had the chance to observe us and finding the balance of the group a bit weird considered 6 people with different approaches and interests, Andrea suggested to crack, or to affirm our own attitudes and follow what we really are interested in.

Questions from Andrea:

- What would be the format of the exhibition?
  - o *Katia*: game
  - o *Carmen*: book
  - o *Kanika*: Something visual (experience) with something material (document and record of the memory of the experience)
  - o *Michela*: something original, whatever the format is
  - o *Laurie*: website and book/website and show
  - o *Dimitra*: exhibition, even a book
  
- Who is the artist you would love to work with?
  - o *Carmen*: Haris Epaminonda and Daniel Gustav Cramer
  - o *Dimitra*: Nikos Moskos
  - o *Katia* and *Michela*: Marina Abramovic
  - o *Laurie*: Antoinette Ohannessian and Ryan Gander
  - o *Kanika*: Raqs Media Collective

What came to the surface is that it's not impossible to relate interests which at first glance seem way off from each other.

(i.e. Storytelling intended as transformation, as narration is well connected to comic novels and can be easily related to the main issue of superheroes to be considered in a metaphorical way, as a representation of something else other than the characters of superman, batman and spiderman as such).

Different concepts all related to the topics of 'superheroes' and 'undesirability of truth' were discussed:

- Truth
- Society's desires
- Theatricality
- Transformation
- Drawings
- Hand-made
- Democracy
- Generating content
- Superheroes and power, master and slaves, game of roles, sex

A nonstop switch from our project to Andrea's Documenta 13 experience in Kabul was during the second day.

**Friday, November 16th**

Third and last day of the seminar.

We had a visit to the museum of Grenoble where, after the tour, Andrea and the group met for a quick recap of the issues raised during the seminar.

Afterwards the group went back to the Magasin and took stock of the situation by trying to figure out how to develop the notion of truth without opening up further issues and connect the different topics derived from the concept of superheroes mentioned above.

Together with Lore, we also discussed of the opportunity to conduct a talk during the round table on the role of the curator that will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> in Lyon.