

SPECIAL PROJECT / Boundary Line

5 December 2013 – project presentation.

On the occasion of the exhibition *Unstable Territory. Borders and identity in contemporary art*, the CCC Strozziina has developed the project **Boundary Line** aimed at students from foreign universities and art academies of Florence. The project, undertaken in collaboration with art instructors, has had the objective of initiating, within the different areas of study, a practical and theoretical reflection on the concepts of territory and borders analysed in their numerous meanings: territory as geographical area, as a place of cultural belonging and identity, as a legislative space, as a field of knowledge, and as a metaphor.

Syracuse University in Florence

Professor Kirsten Stromberg, Intermediate and Advanced Painting

After reading the articles and visiting the exhibition, students reflected on the idea of a boundary, whether it be personal, physical or socio-political in relation to their experiences while studying abroad. The Paradox of the Boundary (when one tries to transgress a boundary, one also reinforces it), Transformation and Liberation (rethinking perspectives and not being tied to conventionally assumed identities) were central issues. Through visual research and experimentation they chose to address: *Living on The Boundary*: where something exists on the edge of one thing and another; *Exploring Paradox*: where boundaries can 'flip' (so called 'inside' becomes 'outside', micro becomes macro, up becomes down etc.); *Transforming The Boundary*: where a boundary undergoes an alteration and a repositioning of perspective.

Professor Stefani Talini, Photography course

After the guided visit to the *Unstable Territories* exhibit, students focused on the concept of boundaries in terms of social, economical, personal barriers.

The focus was mainly on political and ecological issues. The common observation was that man is creating his own limits by destroying the planet we live in. Human beings are disconnected and are in conflict with our mother earth in an insane process of self destruction.

In class discussions and work reviews challenged the students to a deeper understanding of their own creative ideas translating them into images.

Lorenzo De' Medici

Professor Rossana Pinero, Advanced Painting

Professor Elisa Gradi, Art History

For the project *Boundary Line* the Fine art students at Ldm have reflected upon their own individual reactions to the Contemporary Art exhibition *Unstable Territory. Borders and identity in contemporary art* at the CCC Strozziina and have then developed works that evolved from their own individual identity. After visiting the art studios and viewing the art students at work, Art History students developed a statement of the artistic process pertaining a Fine Art student. Each of the four Fine art students from the Advanced Painting Course conducted by Professor Rossana Pinero, were in direct dialogue with four art history students from the Contemporary Art History course conducted by Professor Elisa Gradi.

The project provided students the possibility to exchange ideas & concepts reflecting on the creative process in Contemporary Art. By establishing a dialogue between Fine art and Art History, students have had a first hand experience on the fluxus exchange between the creative and the reflective aspects of art.

The LdM students participating in the presentation are:

Fine Arts: Deanna Foley, Gabrielle Wolfe, David Sohl, Darko Cuglievan

Art History: Kelsey Hotaling, Sierra French, Kerstin Marzullo, Angel Rose Tinnirello

FUA - Florence University of the Arts

Professor Larissa Aharoni, Foundation Sculpture

Professor Lucia Giardino, Contemporary Italian Art

For the project *Boundary Line*, promoted by the Education Department of the Center for Contemporary Culture Strozzi to parallel the exhibition *Unstable Territories*, art history students Shelbie Monkres and Kristine Calderoli introduce the visual works by Katerina Gugliotta and Mario Ayala. Studio art students have worked on two separate projects, different for language, media, message, and concepts. Katerina Gugliotta's project is an interactive work, which arrives at its complete definition when being acted out by two or more players. Based on a board game, it questions how the acquisition of the use of certain world wide spoken languages (English, as well as the digital language) turn communication into a functional instrument to share basic information, unable to convey deepest meanings and reflections. Paradoxically therefore, and because of its shallowness, *globblish* (global English), becomes synonymous with today's incommunicability and isolation. In his work, Mario Ayala investigates the vacuity of stereotypes on two separate levels: the portrayal of Florence, as a postcard city, like it appeared on the 1970's *Intervallo Rai* (a slide show TV program which illustrated *pittoresque* and historical sites of Italy), and the contrasting reality of its variegated population of immigrants, illegal vendors, Sinti etc... who literally move to the *unstable territory* of legality and citizenship.

SACI

Media and photography department, the class of Digital Multimedia

Professor Dejan Atanackovic

Combining the themes proposed by the exhibition at the CCC Strozzi and the class talks concerning the representation of the body in our time, our task during the second half of the semester has been to identify the body as a territory and define its borders. As we observed in class, it was throughout late modernity that the body became subject to juridical, medical and educational containment; its efficiency calculated and studied. Simultaneously, the body has been compared to the geographic, linguistic, cultural or physical Other, and this comparison remained, through various more-or-less sophisticated methods of exclusion, the most common principle in defining the western identity. In response, the art of the XX century and of our time has often approached the body-discourse as a concern for the effective state of human freedom. Today, the body remains a central area of interest of economic and political investment, the principles of which follow the rules of the global market economy. In order to define its borders, we are once again directing our gaze "outside" in search for the Other, now perhaps with more difficulty, in a world where both wealth and poverty are globally exported. The Other, therefore, may be very close, sometimes right at the edge of our skin, in a mirror or behind a mask, hidden inside our desires, in the methods of display, in the systems of control, or even inside our body. And of course, the Other is sometimes Me.

students: Thomas Beyer, Luisa Empis, Jonathan Harwood, Yo-Yo Lin, Charles Mai, Emma McKee, Amelia Rice, Rachel Strahan, John Woodward



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