



Exhibition view: *Überwasser*, 2018
Digital prints on paper, framed
Biennale Gherdeina VI

Participation to the Biennale Gherdeina VI Ortisei, Italy, June – September 2018

The *Biennale Gherdeina VI – Writing the Mountains* features the following artists: Mariana Castillo Deball, Claudia Comte, Alessandro De Francesco, Alicja Kwade, Sissa Micheli, Stefan Papco, Giuseppe Penone, Simon Perathoner, Gianni Pettena, Agnieszka Polska, Jiri Prihoda, Gregor Prugger, Mathilde Rosier, Egill Sæbjörnsson, Fabien Vallos, Nico Vascellari, Franz West.

All artists, except Penone and West, produced new site-specific works. Most of them produced works inspired by Alessandro De Francesco's poetry and conceptual writing. Alessandro De Francesco produced a new series of site-specific poems, entitled *Überwasser*, which were used as curatorial guideline and are also presented in performative (in Jiri Prihoda's poetry pavilion *Diogene's Barrel* on June 23rd 2018), printed and framed versions for the exhibition and the catalogue. He also created *One Poetic Engine – Dolomites*, a video and sound installation made with the interviews of eight people from the local community.

Curator Adam Budak writes about Alessandro De Francesco's contribution:

"Poetic narrative *Überwasser* by Alessandro De Francesco, commissioned for the Biennale and conceived by the artist during a short residency in Val Gardena, is a manifesto of an 'intimate immensity' of the Dolomites: a series of sensual tableaux that along with a lexicon of the nature's elemental language provide a prototype for *Writing the Mountains* multiple scenarios. De Francesco's five short poems explore in a gestural and subjective way the essence of a site, its lyrical dimension and a relationship with a human being; his is an imaginary conversation with the woods and the waters, the peak's curved lines, the infinite skin of space...; an act of poetic generosity and an acknowledgment of the nature's hospitality and uniqueness.

Alessandro De Francesco considers poetry as an artistic practice; his work which he describes as 'language art' focuses on the interaction between poetry, sound art, installation, digital writing, and page design. De Francesco's «reading environments» and «augmented writing» consist of sonic and visual enhancements of multiple textual materials by means of reading digital voice processing and writing design software.

With *One Poetic Engine: Dolomites* the artist pays a tribute to Val Gardena local community. A series of interviews with some representatives of the region's political, cultural and social life develop the notion of belonging and emphasize the significance of the natural environment and its influence upon everyday life as well as upon the construction of an individual and a collective identity."

Audio sample of the sound installation at the following URL: http://alessandrodefrancesco.net/OPE_SOUND_Gherdeina.html