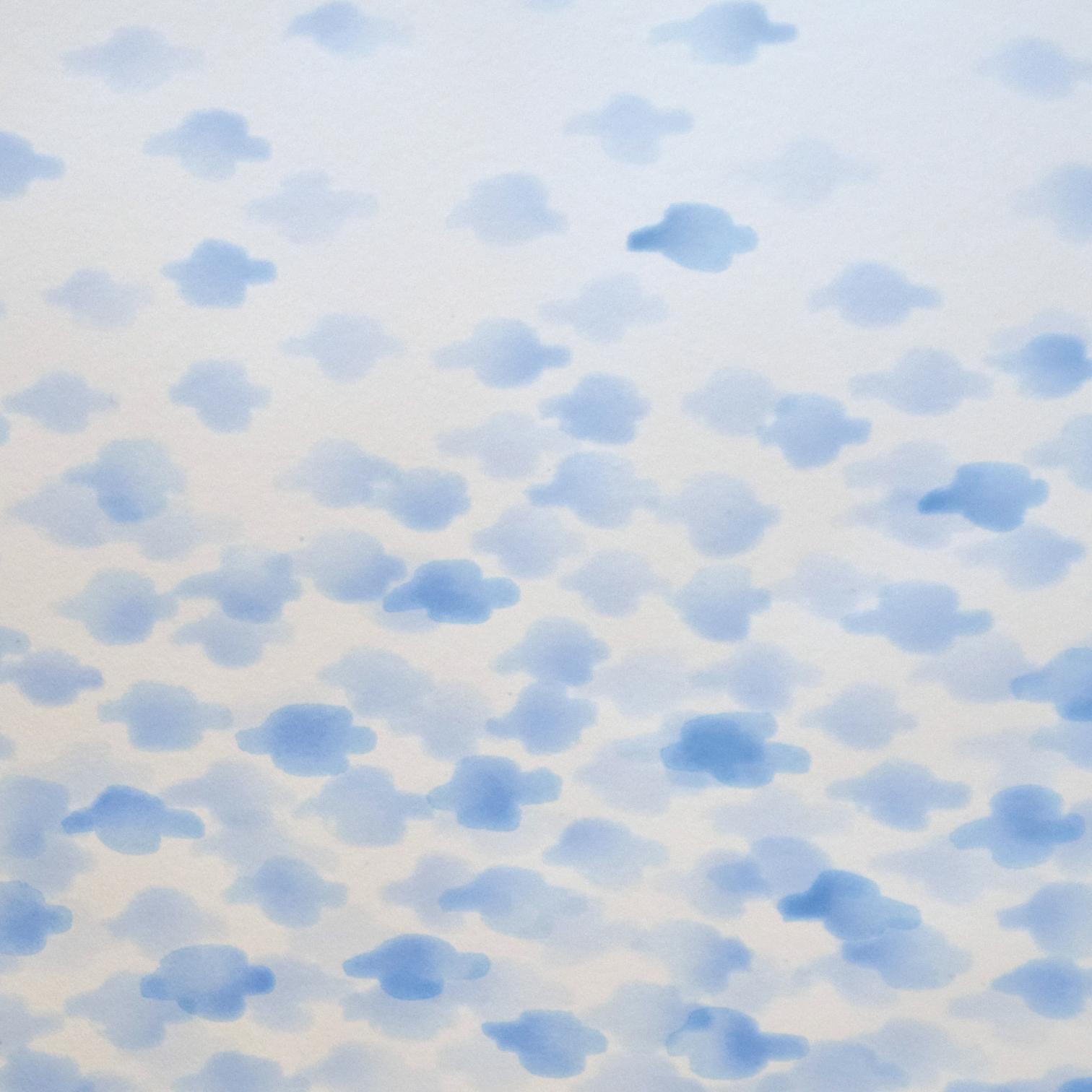


ARP

ART RESIDENCY PROJECT

2015-17



Valentina Colella

FOOTPRINTS

A visionary, iperconnetted, contemporary dream

9 March 2017

CIRCA/Everard Read Gallery

Rosebank Johannesburg

This is a one night show. Just a bite for an audience with passion for art. We want to share with Johannesburg artaholic people an unusual image of Italy. The Abruzzo region, so deeply hurt in this moment, is the homeland of lots of Italian South African people; that's why we decided to ask to Valentina Colella to develop a side art project during her residency in Cape Town. This event is not only a tribute, but an occasion to discover the artist's roots and dreams.

The ARP-Art Residency Project, promoted by Centro Luigi Di Sarro of Rome, is an exchange program supported by the Italian Ministry of

Foreign Affairs with the aim to promote young artists around the world. The project involves South Africa since 2009, and 13 artists travelled between the two countries so far. They had the opportunity to showcase their work in Italy and South Africa and traveled around, meeting people and encountering new places, broadening their knowledge and skills. This is the main goal of ARP, and the most important objective for all of us who are working behind the scenes to make it happen.

Alessandra Atti Di Sarro

Director Arp-Art Residency Project
Centro Luigi Di Sarro Rome, Italy

In its efforts to present and support young Italian artists in South Africa, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Pretoria is proud to participate in the realization of the exhibition/event titled FOOTPRINTS by young Italian artist VALENTINA COLELLA for a series of reasons.

First of all, this event is a collateral event of the bigger project 'Progetto ARP - Art Residency Project 2015-2017' by CENTRO LUIGI DI SARRO, that has planned the residency of the artist in Cape Town for February and March 2017.



BucaNeve - 2015 - Photo on Hahnemühle paper

The exhibition is made up of three parts: the first one is focused on Abruzzo, Valentina Colella's homeland, and presents a video shot in 2015 at Campo Imperatore; the second displays a multimedia piece in which a route is traced starting from her town, Introdacqua near Sulmona, up to the mountains till a mountain shelter overlooking the Peligna Valley. Then the route is transferred on the map of the same town indicating some topical points, corresponding to some places which are fundamental for the local residents.



Intorno un *Bosco innevato* - 2017 - Mixed media

Each of these points is accompanied by pictures with latitude and longitude coordinates so to allow the public to locate the places on GPS. The third and last part is the pictorial one, composed by 9 works on paper with studies on essential forms of the earth, the sky and the flight between the two spaces.



Confini - 2015 - Photo on Hahnemühle paper

Valentina Colella is a conceptual artist who expresses herself with all the means at her disposal, nothing excluded. From paintbrushes to computer. From canvas to digital. She moves

effortlessly between photography, sculpture and video. She has very contemporary vision of art: in her view art has a meaning because it narrates our days, otherwise it has no meaning.

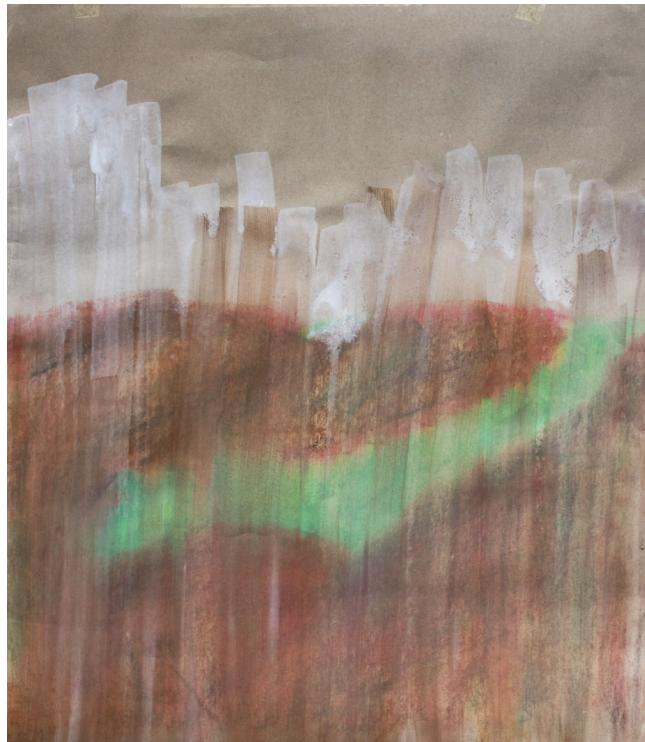


Intorno un *Bosco Ghiacciato* - 2016 - Mixed media

Lightness and contamination make up her peculiar style. She studies and uses media and social media to transform them in artistic products. She draws her inspiration from nature and the landscape surrounding her. And that landscape is that of Abruzzo, so beautiful and wild, but deeply devastated by telluric episodes and unusual meteorological happenings in recent times. Nevertheless, with these works the artist's sensitivity and research now give us a piece of Abruzzo in South Africa back, in its most essential form, with maps and photographs, itineraries and paintings. Trans-figured.

Anna Amendolagine

Director of Istituto Italiano di Cultura - Pretoria



Intorno un *Bosco di faggi bruciati* - 2016 - Mixed media

As an organic vessel, the ARP Residency Project is both a platform and a creative catalyst for young ideas. As a curator, I have worked with the Centro Luigi di Sarro now since 2013 (on and off during the last 4.5 years) and I have had the pleasure to have witnessed its versatility and impact on several occasions. The notions of ARP act as a springboard and nurturing concept. The young Italian and South African artists (under the ages of 35 years) have access to unique and focused travelling opportunities- the South African artist goes to Rome and an Italian artist comes to South Africa. This is for a period of around 6/8 weeks, to be inspired and to prepare a solo presentation in a formal gallery space for 2 weeks.

It is not simply the journey to Europe or the African continent that offers the catalyst for new and fresh ideas for each young artist- although

in some cases a whole new series of thoughts and working methodologies are developed. The energies that are manifested are in a great part due to the enthusiasm and support at the Centro di Sarro and the various local teams on the ground. There are undiscovered opportunities to educate that the ARP team continues to renew each year- unique to each visiting artist's requirements. Often creative conversations are started that continue long after a residency is over. It reminds us of the critical importance that this award offers and it's an underlining belief and commitment in the projects goals: an animated and ambitious infusion to make a difference in young people's lives.

Emma Vandermerwe

Senior Curator Everard Read /CIRCA Gallery
Cape Town 2017





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