

Lisa Mara Batacchi

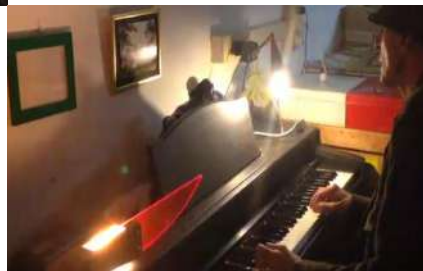
Soulmates (Within Time)

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on going since 2014

This project is a work in progress nourished on a long time by the succession of many coincidences. Born from a dream, it talks about people through things or better about things that are worth as catalysts and vehicles of relations. I remember I dreamt of walking next to a person. No dialogues between us but only the vision of two people dressed in similar colors that seemed to summarize a state of pure affinity. After a few months I met a man who had a sweater with same mélange colors and stripes. Although the stripes were in different positions they balanced together in a composition with mine. From the next day I decided to investigate my private relationships and to have an exchange of thoughts regards the creation of

knitwear prototypes with whom I felt deep affinity. The pair of garments would narrate the relationship between us with coincident geometric shapes and lines from one another, becoming like devices able to configure a dynamic structure for also other subjectivities. Therefore, at the center is a knitted, a handicraftsman and from this fulcrum, as radiating, stories unravel where the private becomes public and vice versa. One way to think of relationships but also of the “product”, which in this case is subtracted to the rhythms of the fashion system to gain instead the necessary time to “consume” every meeting as an exercise of feelings.



Above:
stills from videos, private archive of the artist.



Above:
installation view, hand made knits, participated performance, video projection, photos of various dimensions, riss(e) Zentrum, curated by Ermanno Cristini, 2014

A Relation as a Continuous Dance

two sweaters, hand knitted, 2014

The two sweaters were created in honor of my longest love relationship with a partner with who I used to practice tai ji quan and qi gong. I most remember of our past relationship as our energy flowing from one body to another as a continuous dance. These two garments, when close together, create a visual knitted wave.



Above and Left:
occasional performances at
riss(e) Zentrum
Solo show curated by Ermanno Cristini, Varese (IT),
2014

Cultivating the Exception and not the Rule

two ponchos, hand knitted, 2014-2015

The two ponchos were created from the dialogue between Lisa Mara Batacchi and Lapo Binazzi, a young artist and an important exponent of the radical 60s Florentine architecture; two figures that have been seeing each other nearly every day and have been meeting casually in the same cafeteria, in Florence near both of their studios, at the same time, when she was having breakfast and he was taking an aperitif.

The result of this encounter is an ideal bridge between two generations, a relation of mutual exchange and collaboration on the topics of the object and the project, which aim to find a new balance between things and us. This long dated issue takes us back to the utopia of 50 years ago, when the primacy of function and of the economy were perturbed by the joyful irruption of the habit of “wasting”: a need of imagination as a political experience.

Behind the planned nihilism of the “radicals” was hidden the “Marcusian” need of ransoming the “principle of pleasure” over the one of “execution”, in a design of global revolution. We were specialists on dead tracks, says Lapo Binazzi in their conversation and the question that crosses is: if utopia is an itinerant bottle, has it reached us? And in which way the one who picks it up today can give it back to the seas without taking away from it its propulsive energy?

Text by Ermanno Cristini from <http://1995-2015.undo.net/it/argomenti/1425148271>



(Above) performance Lisa Batacchi with Lapo Binazzi (UFO), Villa Pacchiani, Pisa, 2015



Installation view, for *Terranauti* group show curated by Angelika Stepken and Ilaria Mariotti, Villa Pacchiani, Pisa, 2015





Above and right side: installation view and occasional performances, Textile Art Center, NY (US)



Above: a site specific performative creation project for Performing Santacaterina, Art Verona Fiera (IT), curated by Società dello spettacolo and VIINDUSTRIAE, 2015

Soulmates (Within Time)

Solo show, Clark House Initiative, curated by Sumesh Sharma, Bombay, 2015

Lisa Mara Batacchi has been a collaborator with Clark House since 2013, when we participated in programmes curated by her in Florence. Medium often have sexual associations, and such can be said of knitting, a practice seen unpopular, time-taking and predominatntly associated with an older female middle-class. Batacchi thus introduces designs into the weave of wool which reinstates the belief of the 'immateriality' of medium - the connotations and associations of its use. We have invited Batacchi for a residency and final open studio on the May 16th. She has worked in collaboration with the Gornati Banjaras, who have worked traditionally with weaving and knitting and now live as manual casual labour in the slums of Bombay. We hope to support a programme of public outreach and exhibition that sees Batacchi collaborate with the Bombay community. During here time she has also worked with Kritika Balsane a crochet weaver and Clark House member Poonam Jain in a project that was further conceptualized along with Italian artists such as Lapo Binazzi (UFO). In an art context where the conceptual is often exploitative, Batacchi reaches the realm of the avant garde and the contemporary by including the least spoken within the arena.

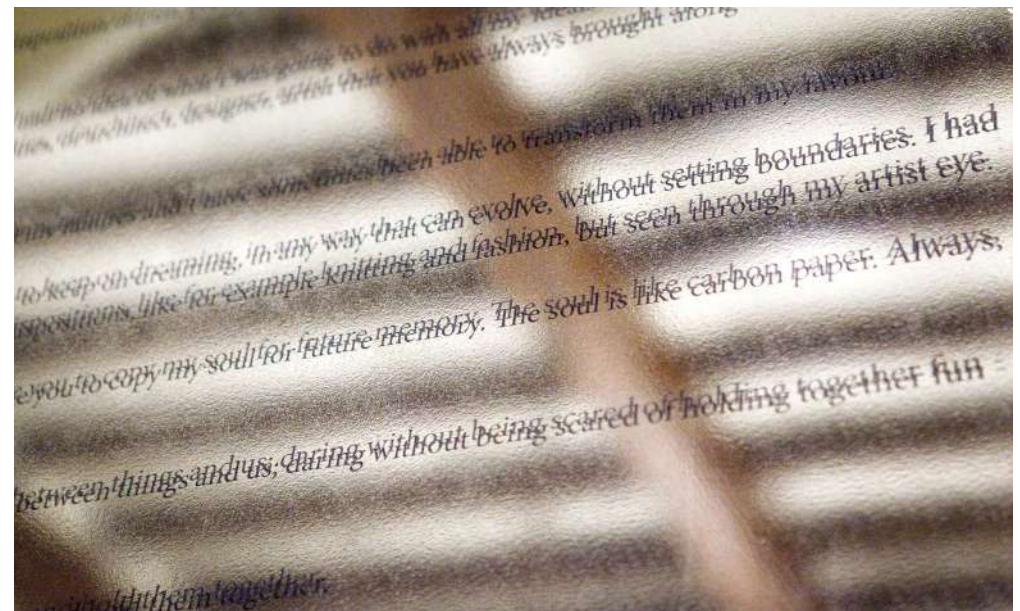
Text By Sumesh Sharma



The residency and exhibition was promoted thanks to the DE MO. Movin 'Up Award and the Italian Ministry of Culture



Below: *Cultivare l'eccezione e non la regola*, text written by Lisa Mara Batacchi and Lapo Binazzi (UFO) printed on trasparent film applied on mirrors, Clark House Initiative, Bombay, 2015



Trading Stitches Making Bridges

Two cotton Ganjis, embroideries on cotton fabric, cotton crochet, 2015

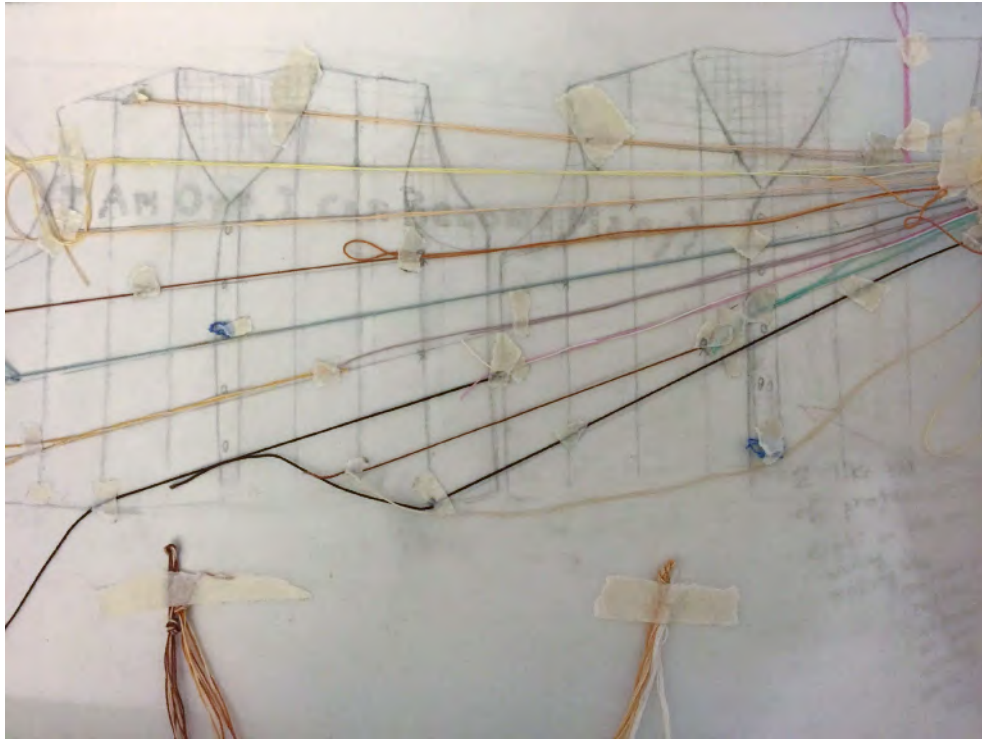
The two garments were created during my residency in Bombay at Clark house Initiative, invited by Sumesh Sharma and thanks to the DE.MO. Movin 'Up Award and the Italian Ministry of Culture.

At the center once again is the female workforce, which has always in history had the power to unite cultures and traditions but which often remains marginalized especially in a country like India still mostly centered on a patriarchal society.

During my residency in Bombay I encountered the Banjaras Gormati tribe that have always worked and earned a living with embroidery and trade. Now they



Above: ph. of But Sita Chavan in her laboratory during a visit to the Banjaras settlement.



Above: drawing sketch for *Trading Stitches Making Bridges*, A4 cotton and transparent paper, pencil, threads, paper scotch tape.

live on odd jobs in the slums of the city. I interacted with Ms. Sita But Chavan, the tailor of the community, for the realization of embroideries on cotton fabric and with a young girl, Kaveri Balsane, for the crochet work.

I chose to work on a garment worn traditionally by men of the tribe of Marawari and Gujarati (coming as the Banjaras from Rajasthan and migrants settled in Bombay). This garment is a T-shirt of white cotton, called Ganji or Banyan, used to carry precious objects in the outer and inner pockets.

On the two Ganjis I applied the crochet work and the various long colored strips of cloth embroidered which, as rays, can connect to each other as also with the otherness.

The garments and the occasional performances transmit a continuous negotiation between the parties and cultures that can generate new possible approaches and encounters.



(Above) installation view and unconventional performances, Clark House Initiatives, from Solo show *Soulmates (Within Time)* curated by Sumesh Sharma, Bombay 2015





(Above) installation view and unconventional performances, Clark House Initiaves, Soulmates (Within Time) solo show curated by Sumeh Sharma, Bombay, India, 2015

On an adjacent wall I used colored chalk to write on a black wall all the trading that occurred in the month residency in Bombay and through which I was able to produce the work. Many zeros appear on the black wall and are nothing less than the Rupees spent, which allowed me to get closer to my interlocutors in a dialogue process that otherwise would not have started so easily. I had to deal in particular with the Banjaras, a nomadic tribe whose name means "traders". I feel that rewriting these receipts can bring to light an intent of transforming monetary exchange into something else, a more profound encounter.



1050-
 160 cm
 yellow &
 Brown
 Multi Mix
 11 PIS x 3 = 33
 3 PIS x 3 = 15
 1 PIS x 4 = 4
 4 PIS x 15 = 6
 1 PIS x 8 = 8
 1 PIS x 8 = 8
 2 PIS x 2 = 4
 76
 8 1/2 x 11 = 91
 127
 white
 white Banjar
 white Bharat
 2 m x 20
 2 m x 36
 108 PIC x 4
 1 PIC x 950
 8 PIC x 24
 8 PIC x 36
 19 x 6

(Above) installation view and unconventional performances, Clark House Initiaves, from Solo show Soulmates (Within Time) curated by Sumeh Sharma, Bombay 2015

Press

MUMBAI MIRROR

ARTRIBUNE

ARTRIBUNE 2

GAI - GIOVANI ARTISTI ITALIANI