



Peter Verwimp, Belgium, Antwerp
Cook, musician, artist

Education

Peter studied experimental music at the Antwerp Music Academy and at private jazz studios playing the saxophone, the bass-guitar, the guitar and using electronic devices. He's learnt cooking and art by himself.

Recent Projects

Peter's part of a media collective by the name Building Transmissions, founded in Antwerp in 2001. Together they create experimental audiovisual documents, improvisational sound structures, live performances and multimedia installations, among other things. The collective has released some of their works on cd and lp and has made sound performances and collaborative projects worldwide. They also have their own website: www.buildingtransmissions.com. The collective participated in the 50th Venice Biennial with a live sound performance (Kris Delacourt, Nico Dockx and Peter Verwimp), feat. Jan Lemaire (additional voice and electronics) and Douglas Park (reading of his prose texts), as part of the 'Utopia Station', a project curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Molly Nesbit & Rirkrit Tiravanija.

Unidee Projects

Peter is interested in food as a good reason for bringing together people from different backgrounds, an informal way to create opportunities for communication between people who normally would not meet. One of his projects is therefore closely related to eating, Interview Dinner, where he invites people to dinner, asks them to fill in a questionnaire, and works out a menu based on their answers.

He has also worked on several audio soundtracks for other fellow artists at Cittadellarte: Pratul Dash, t s Beall, Mary Bellamy and Beatrice Catanzaro, parts of which will be released on a CD together with Journal 10, Cittadellarte's annual magazine. The CD will also contain parts of interviews and field recordings, all linked in one way or another to Cittadellarte.

Another project is the creation of a multifunctional object, a raw form made of long pieces of wood that can be put together and used in different combinations. He has also made murals and floorals, painted directly on the floor using food; coffee and soy-sauce.

Why?

Peter started cooking about ten years ago, cheap meals for squatters living in vacant buildings. Food is a tool for social transformation, it fills the gap between different cultures and nationalities, it builds bridges. As for making music, Peter started playing instruments when he was six years old, and he says that the connection between sound and image comes natural to him. When he sees an image, he hears what it sounds like, and viceversa.

Future

Peter has many projects waiting for him when the Unidee residency finishes at the end of October. Among them is a participation in Utopia Station's next stop in Munich at the Haus der Kunst that opened on the 7th of October this year. In January Building Transmissions are going to China to participate in workshops and performances. The collective would also like to broaden their horizons and do something in Japan, a culture which fascinates them a lot.

Cittadellarte

The residency at Cittadellarte has given Peter more confidence to work on his own as a solo artist, given that he



Alfredo Luis Vásquez Elorza, Colombia, Medellín
Artist

Education

Visual arts at Universidad de Antioquia, course: "El museo Actual: Conceptualización y praxis, escuela interamericana de bibliotecología"

Recent Projects

3 cabezas con 13 miradas, 2003, exposición de grado, Facultad de Universidad de Antioquia. A project that lasted for about three months in 2003 and involved interviews with homeless people living in the streets. For the exhibition he made a round mattress made of waste material, such as plastic and paper.

Unidee Projects

At Cittadellarte Luis has worked together with Çağıl Yurdakov on a prototype for a transportable and more comfortable "shelter" for homeless people. The prototype will be made from recycled objects. After Unidee in progress Luis would like to offer the shelter to a homeless man in Turin.

He has worked on a poster campaign to increase people's awareness of the importance of sorting and recycling their refuse. The posters will be displayed in town.

Customised trousers to facilitate the busy lives of people. Luis has made one pair of trousers with Velcro strips sewed upon the legs where you easily can attach the pockets you need at a particular moment of the day; another idea is to make trousers with a folding stool attached to it and a table that can be placed and fastened between two stools and on which drinks can be put or games can be played.

Why?

Luis wants to draw attention to the people living in the streets and make them visible to the rest of society. He is well-informed about the problematic concerning homeless people and the fact that some people actually choose to live in the street as a sort of protest against the system. Linked to his concern for these people is his interest in recycling, as the homeless often use old plastic bags and paper boxes, other people's refuse, to build temporary shelters with. His projects aim at making life simpler and more comfortable, which naturally leads to re-using old objects and making use of the raw material that is the plastic and paper that is collected at the waste tips.

Future

Luis is going back to Colombia after the residency at Cittadellarte. He still has to finish his degree thesis, which is on the subject of people's relationship to space and the places where they live. He wants to continue working on the subject of recycling.

Cittadellarte

One of the sources of inspiration for his projects during this residence was Raphaëlle de Groot's workshop based on her work in the Cerruti wool factory (2003). She showed how it is possible to work, as an artist, among people and make a change, encourage others to believe in and strive for something better. Luis would like to take that new concept of the artist as an interventionist, back to Colombia, where he says art is still very traditionally regarded as being something only for museums and galleries.



Alejandro Vásquez Salinas, Colombia, Medellin
Designer

Education

Fine Arts at Universidad de Antioquia. His degree project focused on technology and whether it should be considered a tool or not. Technology makes us stronger on one hand, but on the other it makes us less human.

Recent Projects

In 2003 Alejandro participated in the El Puente project in Medellin, aiming at creating conceptual bridges across the world. There he met omi (calc), Juan Sandoval and Fillippo Fabbrica from Cittadellarte. He also runs a design office together with Luis Vásquez Elorza in Medellin. The firm was founded in 2002 and they mainly do graphic design; books and posters among other things.

Unidee Projects

To Live By Air is a project Alejandro began working on a couple of years ago. When you don't have a job or enough money, they say in Colombia that you must eat air. His project in Colombia involved street vendors, whereas in Biella Alejandro has asked workers, both those under contract and those who work illegally, to answer questions related to work and their experiences of "living on air".

Alejandro is also involved in a collaborative project at the train station in Biella, where he and Isabel want to transform the waiting room into a sitting-room. A station is a place for waiting, and Alejandro and Isabel asked people what they think of while they wait. Their stories will be hung together with their portrait inside the station.

A third project is connected to El Puente and Alejandro calls it the Travelling Backpack Show. The idea is to collect the work from the other residents at Unidee, preferably easily transportable material like computer files, CDs and so on, and give a set of this to each and every one, so that the pieces can be shown all over the world.

Why?

Having just graduated from university, "to live on air" is something Alejandro has had to experience himself. However, the unemployment situation in Biella is very different from that in Medellin where there is practically no middle class, but a huge gap between the rich and the poor. Street vendors exist in both Colombia and Italy, but whereas in Colombia selling goods in the street is a common way to earn one's living, it is mainly a phenomenon among immigrants in Italy. As many immigrants don't fulfil the requisite criteria to obtain a residence permit according to Italian law, they are often left, not only living on air, but suspended in the air.

Future

Alejandro is going back to Medellin after the residency at Cittadellarte. He has to restart his design office; contact his clients and present the work he has done here.

Cittadellarte

Alejandro says that during the stay here he has got insight into the more practical aspects of working with art and design, how to look for sponsors, deal with logistics and general organisational issues. Working with people from across the world has shown him different ways to perceive form and how background and culture influence on how we think.



Rafram Chaddad, Israel, Jerusalem
Artist, curator

Education

Diploma from the School of Photography, Jerusalem, 2003.
BA in Linguistics and Bsc in Mathematics at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 2000.

Recent Projects

Rafram has among other things written articles about art, culture, economics and food for several Israeli magazines. He is part of a group of poets and artists called the "Free Academy". They've been organising readings and exhibitions for about two years now, and have also made a few publications. Rafram has also been working with another artist's collective called "Reframe". He has participated in group exhibitions with video art and installations and has also worked "behind the scenes" as a curator.

He curated, together with another artist, Lance Hunter from Jerusalem an important exhibition in February 2004 which involved around 150 artists joined under the name "One Pink Rose", held in his prison cell in Prison 6 where he was kept one month imprisoned for refusing to perform his military service in the Occupied Territories.

Unidee Projects

Rafram is working on an artist book and website about women, men and their memories. Memories are usually made up of smells, tastes and sounds. It will be an artist book which will contain recipes, sounds and stories - the ingredients of memory.

Another project, that is still at a very early stage, is Median Mirror, an attempt to touch on social issues through art. By combining statistics, as a very direct way to communicate facts to people, and the immediacy of the visual image, Rafram wants his art to reflect what is really happening in society, without the tedious effects economic reports have on people.

He has also made a three-minute short art video, Triadic Memory, shot on the island of Djerba during one week in August 2004.

Why?

Rafram says that the most important role of the artist is as a critic of society. It's part of the artist's responsibility to react - only the artists possess the tools to provoke change. The immediacy of the visual image makes it our greatest tool to change the world.

The Future

Rafram has been asked to curate an exhibition at the Tel Aviv Opera House. The exhibition will take place in July 2005 and will feature young artists, which will make an interesting contrast to the classic opera building.

Cittadellarte

Europe is so different from Israel, says Rafram, it has a completely different agenda. It's so quiet here, no worries, whereas in Jerusalem there is action 24 hours a day and the tension is constantly palpable. Of course that affects your work and the choices you make, living in a place such as Israel makes it impossible not to engage in politics. The residency at Cittadellarte has therefore been a new and different experience for Rafram, and seeing the other residents' work and progress has certainly enriched his own.



Matteo Ferrario, Milano, Italia
Economics graduate

Education

He graduated in May 2004 from Bocconi University in Milan with a degree in Art Management, Culture and Communication.

Recent projects

In 2002 he collaborated, for 4 months, with Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro; there he designed a communication plan to help the foundation move from the outside Milan to the centre of the city, which involved outlining new marketing and communication strategies. 2003, he worked 4 months at the Chamber of Commerce of Milan where he followed a project in industrial archeology on the archiving of historical documents and ways of presenting and communicating them to the public. This work led to his degree thesis in which he studied so called corporate museums, that is, museums that collect and display items from a private company, and how this activity can be valuable for companies.

Unidee Projects

Abandoned space, a collaboration with two resident artists, Beatrice Catanzaro and Margarita Vazquez Ponte, under the banner of F.lli Fortuna, which is a new approach to industrial archeology and involves buildings in disuse but which still have a strong presence in people's mind, like the Aiazzone building outside Biella, or the Standa's abandoned premises in the centre of the town.

A personal study of the act of giving as a different way to exchange goods among people. What does it imply to give or receive a gift? It's both an offer and a threat, and creates a situation of power on behalf of the giver and indebtedness on behalf of the receiver.

Why?

It may be a reaction to what he had faced in a traditional economics context and a counterreaction to the general idea of rationality as being mainly a balance between costs and benefits. Economics is always linked to psychology and sociology. There is no economic exchange that does not involve society. He wants to go from what he calls a cold system to a warm one where the implications every economic action has on people are taken into account.

The Future

From having been an economics student he has developed an interest in cultural work and would like to continue the collaborations he has initiated at Cittadellarte. A field he would like to look deeper into is Public Art and Social Sculpture.

Cittadellarte

The residency at Cittadellarte has created a network of people, contacts and projects, where the value is in the possibility of comparison and exchange of information. When he first had graduated from university he thought of working with the management of museums or cultural events, now he's more interested in the possibility of a co-production between art and economics.



Pratul Dash, India, New Dehli and Orissa
Artist working with many different media

Education

Bachelor of Fine Arts, B.K. College of Arts & Crafts, Bhubaneswar, India, 1995.
M.F.A (Painting), College of Art, New Dehli, India, 1998.

Recent Projects

Apart from several group and solo shows, Pratul took part in the Nuga Mikha International Artist's workshop in Nepal in June 2004, before coming to Cittadellarte. The workshop resulted in an installation with sound, light and performance at the Bhaktapur Craft Museum that commented on the political situation in Nepal and its effects on people.

Unidee Projects

The Horror Show is an installation against violence. The viewer is invited to sit down at a table and browse through the images in a photo album. The photos are, however, not of the kind we are used to finding in somebody's home, but depict victims of massacres and wars. From hidden speakers in the room we can hear people crying and suffering. The sound was recorded on location in Nepal, but has been distorted with the help of Peter Verwimp in order not to belong to one particular place, but to be universal. These issues are not only confined to Nepal, India or the Middle East, it's something that concerns all of us, everywhere. Next to the photo album, the viewer can find paper and pens and write down his/her opinions on the matter. Pratul will later send these letters to the UN

He has also been thinking a lot about the relationship between architecture and human beings. All buildings have their own history and he's interested in studying how we react to it. In July 2004 Pratul participated in a workshop on interventions in public places, like hospitals, prisons, public toilets and so on, at La Trappa, outside Biella.

Why?

Pratul says that during his stay in Nepal he could see the pain in the eyes of people. The day he got there he saw the news on TV about the massacre of a family. Pratul went the following day with an artist friend to scene of the crime, the only survivors were the mother and her two-year-old child. It was a shocking and difficult sight. He strongly believes that silence is not a solution to these situations and he has continued working on these matters to bring the issue in front of an international community and ask for our direct participation.

The Future

He's going to curate an exhibition in New Dehli in March 2005 called "Love". He's also, for the last six years, been trying to give shape to the creation of a laboratory for all creative people, to work as a platform for anyone who is interested in the development of the social situation in his country.

Cittadellarte

Working at Cittadellarte has helped Pratul realise that it is possible to create networks and move art out of the galleries and into society. It's the artist's duty to deal with social issues.



Çagil Yurdakul, Turkey, Istanbul
Architect and designer

Education

Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, 1997-2001.
Master study in Industrial Design, Istanbul Technical University, 2001-.

Recent Projects

Çagil has worked as an interior designer ever since she graduated in architecture.

Unidee Projects

Çagil is working with Luis Vàsquez Elorza on a transportable "shelter" for the homeless made of recycled plastic.

She is also making a proposal for a new urban solution for Piazza, the old part of Biella. Generally the public spaces are points of communication. However, that isn't the case for Piazza Cisterna. Çagil has tried to design a space, a kind of street furniture that will allow people to communicate accidentally and naturally. The idea for this furniture is "no communication, no geography" and her concept is based on the fact that language is the basic material for communication. Therefore every seat will given a linguistic identity represented by a certain colour and on the top there will be a world map showing the countries where this language is spoken. She also wants to create a notice board which can be used as a forum for people to discuss different topics, share ideas and write notes in public. People will also be able to express their opinions on the topics discussed on the notice board by using the seats. The seats are linked together two and two and if one person moves, turns his seat to indicate a certain attitude, also the person sitting on the other turns. This simple, short movement can thus start long conversations, discussions or arguments. These seats will, so to speak, become our tongues.

Why?

She says that being in a place where you don't know the language really makes you aware of the importance of communication. She wants to create environments that bring people closer to one another and that encourages conversation. She thinks that design can act as the common ground for people who generally don't interact. She was drawn to Piazza by its mysterious atmosphere, started asking people about its history and found that there were lots of stories to be told. Unfortunately only the locals take interest in these things. Not many people pass through Piazza as a result of its location, and its beauty is partially ruined by the parking lot in the main square.

The Future

When she goes back to Turkey at the end of the residency, she'd like to set up her own design office in Çanakkale, a small town by the sea where she grew up. She also has to finish her degree thesis on "Design for communication" in Industrial Design.

Cittadellarte

The residency has been Çagil's first longer experience abroad and has had a great influence on her work. She has changed the topic of her degree thesis to a subject matter that is more concerned with the relationships between people. The decision to go back to her home town and start up her business was also taken during her stay here at Cittadellarte.



Daniel Cuberta Touzón, Spain, Sevilla
makes short films.



Mary Bellamy, UK; Sheffield
Composer

Education

M.Mus in Composition, Guildhall School of Music and Drama.
PhD in Composition, Sheffield University.

Recent Projects

Mary has had pieces performed at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Hoxton New Music Days, State of the Nation and Brighton Music Festival as well as at many other individual concerts. She has also received performances in festivals outside the UK, in Musikmonat in Switzerland and PPianissimo in Bulgaria. Since 2001 Mary has been one of the new voices composers represented by the BMIC, the British Music Information Centre. Mary teaches composition at the University of Huddersfield.

Unidee Projects

During her residency at Cittadellarte Mary has chosen to work on a number of collaborative projects. The projects combine music and/or sound with either visual arts or text, involving a working process that is both a response to another artist's work and, more interestingly, an exchange of ideas.

Mary has collaborated with Daniel to make the sound for his short films, with t s Beall, and Sarah Rifky. The latter project combines music and text and consists of a dialogue, a writing-composing exchange, between herself as a composer and Sarah, whose work focuses on language. The idea is to allow for a free and personal response to somebody else's work and to set up a form of dialogue which explores the idea of perception and interpretation.

Why?

Through the collaborations with video artists her aim is to enable the image and the music to function on equal levels and to avoid the role of music being one of simple illustration or enhancement of the image. Mary believes that music can be more than a mere conveyor of emotions. She was also interested in placing her work in a different context to that of the concert hall. In doing so she hopes to find new paths of communication and development as an artist.

The Future

After the residency Mary is going back to Sheffield and her job as a lecturer at the University of Huddersfield. She has also got a piece of music to write for the London Sinfonietta which will be performed in concert in February. She will continue working with t s Beall, though they have to find the right medium for their collaboration considering the distance between Sheffield and New York, where t s Beall lives and works.

Cittadellarte

Mary had worked with other performers and musicians before, but never with artists, so that is something she has experienced for the first time at Cittadellarte. She is convinced that staying and working here will affect her future work, how is yet to be seen.



Ishan Ghosh, India, Bangalore
Art and design student

Education

Ishan is attending the third year at Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, where his specializing in film making.

Recent Projects

In February 2004 Ishan along with a colleague started working on a project that began as a documentary exercise but that grew and ended as a short film. The film depicts the lives of the performers in a travelling circus in India, with whom Ishan and a classmate spent a month in spring 2004. The circus has gone through very rough times in its recent history, charged with animal abuse, and more recently, child abuse. But the institution continues to sustain itself in ways which seem primitive to an outsider. They found many smaller stories in a community which enchants its audiences, and still remains aloof from the world beyond its own fences.

Unidee Projects

Inspired by a short stay at "La trappa" on the hills outside Biella, with young people from the area and elsewhere, Ishan got the idea to make a short film about the lives of a few teenagers living in the town. It is a film about their active and sometimes reckless lifestyles, their beliefs, motivations and aspirations. Walking in the mountains they stumble upon an abandoned monastery where a powerful experience awaits them. The film will be about 15-20 minutes, using actors from in and around Biella. It will include techniques like cell animation and stop motion apart from video and documentary footage. Although the film is based on young people's situation in Biella, the subject stretches further and embraces a crucial theme present in youth culture across the world. Ishan would like to screen the film at a local cinema in Biella.

Being a student of film making Ishan has worked with his fellow resident Tania Goloviznina with the filming and editing of the documentation of her project.

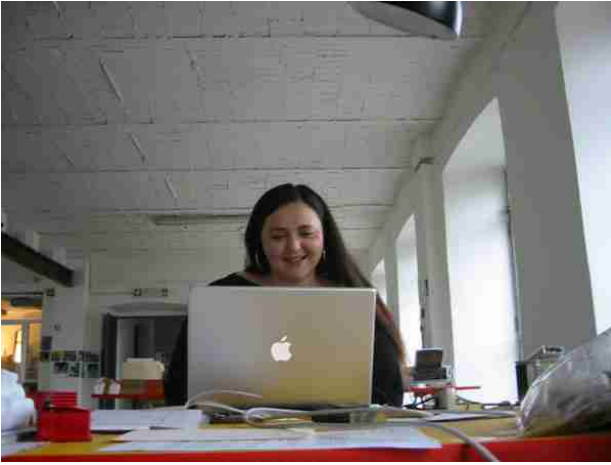
Why?

Ishan is interested in drawing a parallel between youth in urban zones of India and in Biella, a small textile town in Piedmont, Italy. He sees that young people back home are in some respects absorbing facets of contemporary European culture. Young individuals stand with one foot in either culture, trying to reach a certain state of equilibrium and a defined way of life. Ishan has met numerous young people during his residency period in Biella: he almost feels that the little direct confrontation young adults experience of other cultures, different to their own heritage, contemporary traditions and lifestyles, provides them with a comfort zone; they don't sway between cultures.

The Future

Ishan has to go back to college for his final year. He would like to continue working with the footage from the film about the Indian circus that was left out after editing.

Cittadellarte



Margarita Vazquez Ponte, UK, Edinburgh
Artist

Education

MFA in Tapestry, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland.
BA, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland.
MA in Art History, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Recent Projects

Margarita has participated in many group shows and film festivals around Europe. Among the most prestigious events are:

Becks Futures, student film and video prize final shortlist, The ICA, London, 2004.

Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh, Official entry in Saltire Documentary Short Section, 2003.

Unidee Projects

Apart from some videos she has made both on her own and together with other artists at Cittadellarte, the main project is a collaboration with Matteo Ferrario and Beatrice Catanzaro, both Unidee residents, under the banner of F.lli Fortuna. After several public actions in Biella and Turin, they're concentrating on a piece of work involving the vast Aiazzone building that lies just outside Biella. They are making videos, sound recordings and taking photographs of what was left behind when Aiazzone moved out years ago.

Another site that has caught the group's attention is the empty Standa premises in the centre of Biella. A five-minute video documents their "cleaning action", in which Beatrice and Matteo dressed up as professional cleaners and cleaned the front of the building which was dirty and full of graffiti. Margarita filmed the action and says that Beatrice and Matteo got very positive response from passers-by, who were curious and inquisitive. Margarita, however, with the video camera in her hand was met with distrust, and was even questioned by the police.

Why?

Travelling past the Aiazzone building many times by car, Margarita first got impressed by the very scale of the building. The architecture and its vastness along with the building's colourful history was what triggered her interest in the project.

The Future

The F.lli Fortuna project will carry on and Margarita thinks the methodology they've worked out can successfully be applied to other works. As regards her personal career she has been offered a post as teacher at the Edinburgh College of Art.

Cittadellarte

Before coming to Cittadellarte Margarita mainly worked on her own, so something she has learnt during this residency is to collaborate with other artists and to employ new working methods. Living and working among artists from all over the world and the international atmosphere it creates have been very inspiring.



Tania Goloviznina, Russia, St. Petersburg
Artist

Education

From 1981 to 2001 Tania studied the traditional arts, she holds a degree from an art school and an art college where she received a diploma as a painter and art teacher. After that she studied restoration of old paintings at the National Fine Art Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia. After the course 'Theory and practice of media-art' at the Pro Arte Institute of Contemporary Art she started to work with new media.

Recent Projects

Apart from several fine art exhibitions, she has started to work as a progressive and socially engaged contemporary artist. In 2003 she presented the Night Shelter project where she works with homeless people in the spirit of critical realism, following the traditions established in Russia by artists such as Perov, Kramskoi and Repin. Night Shelter was awarded the General Satellite Corporation's Russian Contemporary Art Award for best exhibited project.

Unidee Projects

Flying is a project Tania has been working since 2003 and carried out in both Russia and in Taiwan. In both places she worked with people from different layers of society. She's very happy to continue the project here in Biella. She says that all people can fly. It's a pity we can only do it in our dreams. When she tries to get to know somebody, she sees two points of view that can help her understand this person better. The first is the society's point of view, that is, what family, friends and job colleagues think of him. The second is how this person sees himself, what he thinks of himself. How do these two aspects interact with each other? What impact has the society's point of view on a person's self-identity? Tania believes that the only moment we are truly ourselves is when we fly in our dreams. Her project is divided into four steps: questionnaires, interviews, photos of how we fly and drawings of every story in the form of a comic strip.

Another project she would like to present is The Way of Life, a work now being exhibited at the Museum of National Fine Art Academia in St. Petersburg. It consists of three parts: a video installation, an audio installation and objects covered with wheat sprouts. She sees the weed seeds as a metaphor of the classic work of art, immobile on the wall of the art museum where it might have hung for hundreds of years as if asleep, waiting for the right conditions to grow and come to life.

Why?

Tania's main interest in her creative work is people: individuals and how they interact with society. She says a traditional portrait only depicts the appearance of people, whereas she wants to portrait other aspects: thoughts, dreams and hopes.

The Future

Tania has got lots of ideas for the future. The Flight project will definitely go on. Together with a group of friends she's planning on organising a workshop in Kronschtadt outside St. Petersburg and invite Cittadellarte to take part in it.

Cittadellarte

The idea of a responsible social transformation has always been present in Tania's art. She says it's been very interesting too see different artist's approaches to similar issues. She would like to involve Russia in Cittadellarte's network and hopes for future collaborations.



Walid Moue'd, Israel and Palestine
Designer, artist

Education

High Diploma, Institute of Fashion and Textile, Beit Sahour, Palestine. Walid graduated in July 1998.

Recent Projects

Walid began doing fashion shows in 2000. In 2001 he started collaborating with other artists to bring fashion into art galleries and two years later to incorporate fashion in group exhibitions. In 2002 Walid both organised and participated in the Fashion Days which was a series of events involving hair stylists and make up artists. Apart from making his own collections Walid has worked as a custom designer for the making of a couple of feature films, Paradise Now in 2004 and The Ninth Month in 2002, and has collaborated with Sharif Waked at two occasions.

Unidee Projects

Waiting for water is an installation of a 15x15 metres large piece of black fabric that will be hung across the river Cervo in Biella. The work is a comment on the water conflict and the lack of water in Israel and Palestine and other parts of the world. This piece is one step in a larger project that will unfold following the general course of any river and approach issues like pollution, dams and filtration, as they come along. The piece of fabric will appear, because of its size and colour, as something "shocking" and unfamiliar, blocking the view upstream. After the end of the exhibition the fabric will be recycled and made into a collection of clothes, all carrying the message of the urgent water issue.

The Little Black Dress... Can Fly is the continuation of a work Walid first presented in 2003. The colour black represents his private state of mind at the time and the general local situation in Palestine, connoting sadness and depression but also power. The installation is a metamorphosis of the initial work and includes two dressmaker's mannequins, an adult and a child, reflecting the situation from the people's point of view.

Why?

Recycling fabrics is something he has been experimenting with for many years now. His work stems from a social engagement and the idea is to use old fabrics that are no longer in fashion and second-hand clothes from all over the world and unite them in a modern collection. He is interested in presenting his work in both a public context and in art galleries to draw attention to matters which are just as locally urgent as a global threat.

The Future

To continue focusing on the issue of water.

Cittadellarte

Living and working with nineteen other artists from all over the world changes your way of thinking and communicating. You realise that there are no limits for understanding and you learn to think more globally. Walid hopes to continue collaborating with the people he has got to know at Cittadellarte in the future.



Will Kwan, lives in USA, New York
Artist

Education

He received his MFA from Columbia University's School of Arts in 2004.

Recent Projects

Will has presented his solo and collaborative projects internationally at venues including the 2003 Venice Biennale; the Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania; Exit Art, New York; Art in General, New York; and Mercer Union, Toronto. His single-channel video works have screened at media art festivals in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, New York, and Berlin.

Unidee Projects

Will has chosen to work on two long-term projects that will be presented as proposals at Unidee in Progress. The first involves a youth prison for called "Casablanca" in Zimone and a two hundred-year old prison in the main piazza of Biella that is being converted into a youth hostel for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino. This project is being developed in collaboration with another Unidee resident Isabel Andreu from Spain and attempts to create a space, through the lens of independent cinema production, for the young prisoners - majority of whom are foreigners - to represent themselves.

The second project involves Chinese quarry and stoneworkers in the Italian province of Cuneo, where a growing Chinese community makes up 10% of the entire population in the villages of Barge and Bagnolo. The workers come to these villages for the sole purpose of working in the stone industry, producing raw construction materials such as cobblestones and flagstones which then form our city landscapes. The research is meant to develop eventually into a collaborative project with the Chinese community.

Why?

Both projects have to do with migration and settling in other countries for various reasons; work, personal desire, exploitation or mere survival. Born in Hong Kong, Will grew up in Canada, was educated in America and now divides his time between New York and Toronto, so he has a personal interest in the issue of how to participate in the public life of a place where one is always perceived as an outsider and never completely integrated. He also believes that working in foreign context is fundamental for his development as an artist to formulate a better understanding of larger patterns of global culture.

The Future

Will is going back to New York after the residency at Cittadellarte for a show that opens in November at a gallery called Art in General. The project is called 24-hour Citibank ATM Vestibule, Canal and Elizabeth and will be carried out in an ATM vestibule near the art gallery. Will is going to examine and reveal, little by little, the fingerprints of the customers on the walls and on the machines. In January 2005 he is going to relocate to Holland to spend two years at the Jan van Eyck Academie for a research fellowship. Moving to Europe will also enable him to carry on the work with the projects initiated during the residency.

Cittadellarte

One of the reasons Will applied for the residency was to investigate the idea of creating projects that have a substantive effect on society. He says the work at Cittadellarte should not be about trying to "make the world a more compassionate and communicative space", but to reveal and challenge the inequity of power that exists. Striving for an actual transformation means long-term engagement and thorough research, and Will says his stay here has changed his view on concepts like scale, temporality, and commitment in relation to artistic practice.



t s Beall, USA, New York; Scotland; Glasgow
Artist

Education

Glasgow School of Art, MFA, 2004.
Pratt Institute of Art and Design, BFA in Photography, 1993.

Recent Projects

t s Beall has presented her work in several solo and group exhibitions, some of the most recent are: The International Exchange Show, Hunter College, Times Square Gallery, New York, 2004; Show Me To the Tradesman's Entrance, Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland, 2004; Medium: Film, Mariakapel, Hoorn, Holland, 2004.

Her work was also showed at the Portobello Film Festival, BowieArt/Westbourne Studios, in London, 2003 and 2004.

Unidee Projects

Baghdad, Mon Amour, is a collaboration with Sarah Rifky on the looting of the libraries and museums of Baghdad, especially the loss of the catalogued inventory of those institutions, and the way information and history disappear within violent systems. The installation is presented in the old literature room at Cittadellarte, which suggests the idea of one empty library inside another. Central to the project is the certainty of its failure, the failure to accurately record what was lost in the post-invasion plunder, the failure of the US government to protect history, and the failure of language (and objects and history) to convey the endless, circular conflict of violent systems.

Several collaborative videos with Peter Verwimp and Mary Bellamy experimenting with the relationship between sound and image.

Your call cannot be completed as dialled is a project that explores the conditions of long distance love. As our modern life becomes more mobile, our hearts become increasingly disjointed: To move your life from one place to another means that you are constantly missing loved ones who are elsewhere. Through interviews and sound installations, this project attempts to understand how people deal with the double-life of living in one place and longing for another.

Why?

A recurrent theme in her work is that of violence, dislocation, and loss. She is interested in the iconographic nature of the photographic image, the way that images transfer value to the subject, and the way the camera mitigates vision. Her interest in the nature of the photographic image stems from years spent ruminating on the history of force within culture, and the place of production, creativity, and violence within that culture.

The Future

After the residency at Cittadellarte t s Beall is going to another residency: Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, New York. After that she will return to Glasgow to work at the Glasgow School of Art.

Cittadellarte

The collaborations initiated at Cittadellarte will not end with the residency but will hopefully continue.



Sarah Rifky, Egypt; Cairo
Writer, graphic designer, artist

Education

BA in Art Vision at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. Sarah graduated in 2003. She has also a CELTA certificate for teaching English to foreign learners.

Recent Projects

Sarah has been working as a graphic designer with the American University in Cairo Press. She has also worked with the Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art in Cairo and has written about art and culture on a freelance basis for bilingual Egyptian publications.

Unidee Projects

One of Sarah's main interests which has evolved during the residency is understanding more about the effects and (un-)necessities of language in establishing intimate communication. In order to understand better the factors that come into play when a person is put in an environment where he can neither speak nor understand the language, she decided to place herself in such situations and eliminate the possibility of using a second language, often English, from the communicative experience. With the help of the Cittadellarte staff, she found three monolingual Italian families living in the Piedmont region, to host her for several days at a time. During her stay she participated in the families' daily activities and tried to immerse herself into their household activities. The only non-domestic activity she undertook during this period was keeping a journal and writing short stories.

She is also working with composer Mary Bellamy on exploring communicative possibilities through artistic mediums.

Another collaborative project is the ongoing installation *Baghdad, Mon Amour!* she's working on together with t s Beall. The project is about understanding our personal relationship to the loss of history and cultural heritage in the National Museum and Library of Baghdad after the American invasion in Spring 2003.

Why?

Arriving at Cittadellarte and the Unidee residency programme at the beginning of July 2004, Sarah had many preconceived ideas about art in society, language and culture, literature and representation and the individual and his society. Coming from a very traditional academic background like hers to this open space, both literally and metaphorically, made it difficult at first to understand what was expected from her here and she experienced some difficulty in formulating the impact of her stay in her creative work. During the second half of the residency she slowly began to process her experiences and allow for her thoughts to enter her creative work. The absence of a library troubled her a lot at first, and led to thoughts about the relationship between literature and history and the question how important history actually is to us.

The Future

The same week Sarah got the acceptance from Unidee, she also learnt that she had been chosen for the job as a graphic designer at a Middle Eastern architecture and engineering firm, Dar El Handasah. Her nearest future will therefore consist in a training period at the firm's branches in Beirut and London, she will then work at its architecture department in Cairo.

How do you think your stay and your projects at Cittadellarte will affect your future work?

Sarah has been provided with the opportunity to develop her writing and art practices in a structure unconventional to her educational and social background. After having come to terms with the differences in the methodology and structure of the residency programme, she has managed to make use of these new tools.



Isabel Andreu Roglà, Spain; Sevilla
Art and design student

Education

Master in Documentary Film, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, from January to June 2004.
Costume design and Humanities at Escuela Superior de Diseño de Sabadell.

Recent Projects

The memory of a student's flat, a documentary film project that Isabel hopes to pitch in November. In March this year, Isabel participated in her first group exhibition with an experimental video film called Mutatis-Mutandis at a local culture centre in Barcelona.

Unidee Projects

Isabel found out that though there are very many abandoned buildings in Biella there are no real meeting places or culture centres in Biella. Therefore Isabel has together with a group of women called "Donne in Viaggio" organised a series of knitting meetings in public places. The purpose of these meetings is to create an opportunity for people to get together in an informal way and exchange experiences. Her project was inspired by an artist group in London called Cast - off, that a few years ago started meeting in different places in the city to knit together. Their idea is that knitting alone can be quite boring, but doing it together with other people makes it more fun and a good reason to meet people you didn't know from before.

She has collaborated with Alejandro Vázquez Salinas on a project involving the train station in Biella. It's a film documentary project that aims at exploring the passengers' thoughts and ideas about waiting. In Spanish the words "wait for" and "hope for" are expressed by one word: esperar. Isabel and Alejandro have interviewed people waiting at the station, taped the conversations and photographed the interviewees. They would also like to convert the anonymous waiting room into a cosy living room by changing the furniture and hanging the portraits of the interviewed people on the walls. Through this installation people will have a chance to know more about others' personal notions of waiting and hoping.

Isabel is also working with Will Kwan and the youth community "Casablanca" in Zimone, outside Biella, to involve the young boys, of whom many are foreigners, in the conversion of the old prison in Piazzo, Biella, into a youth hostel.

Why?

Creating spaces and opportunities for people to meet runs like a red thread through Isabel's work at Cittadellarte. She sees the empty and abandoned buildings as a metaphor for the absence of relationships among the different ethnic communities in our society. As for the project at "Casablanca", it actually was born out of a coincidence. Isabel and Will had discussed the possibilities of using the old forties film Casablanca as a lens through which they could approach questions about immigration. Casablanca is presented in the film as a place you only pass through, a state of transition between the past and the future, similar to the boys' situation in the community.

The Future

Isabel is going to back to Valencia after the residency to take her driving license.

Cittadellarte

This has been the first time Isabel has taken on large-scale projects in close contact with society and she has got experiences of dealing with local authorities and institutions. The residency has on the whole been very interesting and intense and she has got insight in different ways of working, which will be very useful in the future.



Beatrice Catanzaro, lives in Germany; Weimar
Artist

Education

Master course in Public Art at Bauhaus, Weimar
She studied Social Sculpture with Shelley Sacks at Oxford Brookes University, UK, in 2003-2004

Recent Projects

Beatrice has for a few years been working on improving her interventions in the public sphere, taking particular interest in the socio-political dynamics in society.

Unidee Projects

Beatrice has worked together with Margarita Vazquez Ponte and Matteo Ferrari under the banner of F.lli Fortuna. Their practice developed through brief actions in public space and is now concentrated on an abandoned commercial area on the outskirts of Biella: the Aiazzone complex. The visitors will be driven to the site and once there taken on a guided tour based on sounds, that highlight the past and present of the building. The group wants to lay emphasis on the pseudo historical and poetic experience rather than the physical exploration of the site. The Aiazzono intervention and previous ones, focus on investigating samples of the economic boom in the 1980's and how these buildings now stand as simulacra of a "golden age".

At the end of September Beatrice performed the first of several actions of a larger project, that took place in London, in Trafalgar Square. Joining the crowd of human "advertising signs" pointing out the nearest hamburger bars, Beatrice carried a sign that said: "1997 footsteps from here the queen awaits your presence!" (with the times for the changing of the royal guards). There's something highly contradictory, she says, in doing voluntary publicity for one of the richest people in Britain. The action focuses on the indifference most immigrants are met with when they arrive in the so-called "civilized world".

Why?

Beatrice believes in collaborative practice among artists as being the only way to avoid the traditional concept of the artist as an author. Her work generally focuses on the public sphere and it often takes the shape of outdoor interventions. Her aim is to reveal contradictions and paradoxes in the public domain and the way people relate to it. Art practice is a tool with which the artist can challenge accepted norms in society as well as point out alternative perspectives.

The Future

After the residency Beatrice intends to develop a long term project concerning "legal aesthetics" for an illegal practice in the public space, dealing with money circulation in particular.

Cittadellarte

Staying at Cittadellarte is like being in a world where time doesn't exist, says Beatrice. It's "being" without the necessity of producing anything. She would have liked, though, to have gone deeper into the concept of "responsible social transformation" and to have discussed more its meaning and premises more thoroughly.